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Monumental Remains

OF

GEORGIA.

BY

CHARLES C. JONES, JR.

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MONUMENTAL REMAINS

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TO

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Ancient Monument,

NEAR

Augusta, Georgia.

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First Monograph.

Lord Bacon, in his "Advancement of Learning," compares antiquities and historical fragments, which have accidentally escaped the ravages of decay, to the scattered, but still floating planks of a ship-wrecked vessel; and commends to the industrious student of history, a careful observation of all monuments, relics, and ancient traditions, in order that somewhat may be saved and recovered from the deluge of time.

The antiquities of our State, have always appeared to me, deserving of more attention, and worthy a higher consideration than that, with which they are usually regarded. Although, like Fame, they may stand with muffled heads, and tell but uncertain tales; although the waves of time, in their ceaseless flow, may have obliterated much that is certain; and the fiat of remorseless decay, doomed to silence and forgetfulness, many of the most engaging and valuable memories of the Past, yet, we must all recognize the fact, that the same inevitable law, which robs the ancient column of its beautiful mouldings, and delicate flutings, also plants the encircling ivy at its base, and places a seal of consecration upon its time-stained capital.

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The study of antiquity, necessarily involves an investigation of many of the most important problems of human history. Especially interesting becomes the inquiry, when it leads us to the consideration of remains and monuments — the only organic memorials of a people, who preceded us in the occupancy of that land, for which we all entertain those abiding attachments, which are the offspring of birth, education, and association.

The Indian no longer walks the soil he once cherished with such ardent devotion. He has looked for the last time, upon the flowing rivers, noble mountains, and beautiful valleys of Georgia — once all his own.

In obedience to the law of progress, the weaker and the more ignorant race disappears before the conquering march of the stronger, and the more enlightened.

Their names perished, when the forest tree, expanding in the soft air and warm sunlight of spring, threw off the rind upon which they were rudely graven. The fragile hut, which sheltered them from the summer storm, fell with the withered leaf of Autumn. Upon the surface of our streams and harbors, are seen no furrows traced by their graceful canoes. Their traditional songs, and historical legends, have vanished with the last memory which retained — with the last voice which repeated them.

Well may the sorrowing Indian, as he turns with a last lingering look from the pleasant abodes of his Fathers, exclaim: —

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"They waste us — ay, like April snow
In the warm noon, we shrink away;
And fast they follow, as we go
Towards the setting day —
Till they shall fill the land, and we
Are driven into the western sea."

Here and there, however, still exist scattered monuments, fast yielding to the despoiling hand of man, and the remorseless attacks of time — truth-speaking relics, which tell of their arts of war, of the chase, of their domestic manners — and above all, consecrated mounds and burial places, suggesting a belief in a future existence, — organic remains in the history of the Indians, evidencing the fact, that the savage breast was not insensible to those traits of humanity — respect for the dead, and veneration for the memory of the illustrious departed — which have been, in all ages, held in esteem and honor.

It is due to the Race that is gone, that the poetic and suggestive names, with which they have invested the prominent natural objects within the limits of our State, should remain unchanged — still cherishing the memories of those, who first looked upon, and admired their beauties. It is demanded by the inquiries of the present, that every scattered fragment, every grass-grown monument, left by the Indian, should be carefully noted, intelligently examined, and so far as may be, industriously preserved.

Acting under this belief, and for the accomplishment

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of this end, it shall be our purpose, from time to time, as opportunity occurs, to visit and describe the most remarkable remains still extant in Georgia; thereby attempting, by analogy, and in fact, to compass the determination of, at least a portion, of what is at present almost unwritten history; thereby hoping to stimulate inquiry and investigation, in behalf of this interesting subject.

Four miles distant from the city of Augusta, at a point known as "The Wash above Warren's Spring," the Augusta canal passes through a small hill, gently sloping toward the right bank of the Savannah River. To the casual observer, there is little of interest connected with the locality, other than the beautiful river, —seen through the luxuriant vegetation adorning its banks — as it leaps in joyous confusion among the many rocks, that here crop out in every direction from its time-worn channel; and the gentle undulations, on either hand, lending a quiet and pleasing attraction to the scene.

A closer examination however, discloses the fact, that this must have been a constant, and favorite resort of the Indians. The surface of the ground, for an area of several acres, is literally covered with arrow and spear heads — fragments of pottery — stone axes — occasional rude mortars, hollowed in flat rocks brought from the bed of the river — pestles — soap stone ornaments — and here and there a pipe. Again and again, have numbers of

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these remains been collected, and carried away by the curious, as mementoes of the place, and of the Race by whom they were fashioned; and still, the returning ploughshare of Spring, each season, reveals new specimens of the handiwork of the Ancients. Abounding everywhere, are quantities of muscle, clam, and snail shells, there deposited by the Aborigines.

That the spear and arrow heads were frequently here manufactured, is clearly proven by the fact, that numbers of them may be found in an unfinished condition; while chips, struck from the silex of which they were forming these implements of war and of the chase, lie scattered in every direction.

The soap stone ornaments, and mortars, also indicate a local origin. It is to be observed however, that the axes and hatchets, are formed generally of cyanite, a mineral not found in this vicinity. The pipes are made of steatite. Occasionally are seen — intermixed with the soil — the bones of large fishes and animals. There appears to be in the neighborhood, an absence of mounds and burial places. This fact we shall subsequently show, is susceptible of a very natural and positive explanation. Every indication points to the conclusion, that this was a favorite seat of the Indians; and the reason why it was selected as a place of resort, becomes evident upon a moment's reflection. The adjacent swamps and alluvial bottoms, with their original tangled undergrowth, must have constituted an attractive cover for

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game. The river, flowing near, furnished not only a never failing supply of water, but also afforded an abundance of fish at all seasons of the year. Just here, occur the rapids in the Savannah. From the projecting rocks, and numerous boulders which lie exposed in the current, admirable opportunities were presented for spearing the fish, as they glided through the shallow sluices, or rested sluggishly in the circling eddies.

We are informed that at the present day, in the Spring of the year, a shad fishery is here conducted with marked success.

It is well ascertained, that the Indians located their permanent settlements, with direct reference to the natural advantages, and physical resources of the place selected. The presence of fish, game and water, was indispensably necessary, both to the convenience and support of tribes, who had not advanced in civilization beyond the hunter state — who relied upon the spear, the bow, and the arrow, as the principal means of obtaining their subsistence — who cultivated the soil only to a very limited extent, and then simply by partially loosening the earth with the scapula of a deer or a bison — who erected, as a shelter from the inclement elements, buildings of the slightest and most perishable materials, — and who could, at a moment's warning, change their abodes without loss or inconvenience, locating anew, where ever fancy, pleasure, or necessity might suggest.

This spot may have been used by them simply as a

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rendezvous, for the purposes of fishing and hunting during the Spring or Summer months of each year; but we incline to the opinion, that it was a fixed settlement, and that the peculiar attractions of the spot, received at their hands, a general and permanent recognition.

There may, and probably do exist at particular points along the banks of the Savannah, and other Rivers of our State, localities possessing like indications; but we doubt if many can be found, abounding to such a marked degree, in varied remains and relics — all attributable to a purely Indian origin.

Here they lie, speaking memorials of an almost forgotton race, — like sea-shells found where the ocean has been, to tell that the great tide of life was once there.

A mile and a half above the place, where the Augusta canal takes its inception — near the middle of the Savannah River — is STALLING'S ISLAND, forming one of that numerous and beautiful group of islets, known in the neighborhood, as "*the thousand Isles.*" On the right bank of the river, rise the attractive hills of Georgia — their flanks covered with luxuriant vegetation — their crests yielding a generous annual harvest, to reward the toil of the husbandman — while on the other hand, the sister slopes of Carolina, rejoice in the same warm sunlight. The river, here buoyant with life and animation, leaps joyfully from rock to rock, now rushing gayly through the sluices of the descending rapids, now pausing ever and anon, with eddying tide to dally

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with the green slopes, and kiss the pendant branches of the forest trees, as they stoop to the refreshing influences of the spray. The axe of the woodsman has left unharmed the vegetation of many of these little islands; some of them rejoicing still, in the possession of their primeval foliage.

Stalling's Island, is perhaps some six acres in extent, — its shores hidden by dense masses of native cane, and indigenous vines, — while far above the undergrowth, tower in conscious pride, and unchecked vigor, the Beech, the Cotton Tree, the Catalpa, the Maple, the Birch, and the Sycamore, intermingling their graceful branches of varied hue, in pleasing harmony. Springing as does its foliage from the water's edge, this Island appears a thing of life and beauty, resting quietly upon the bosom of the ever-changing tide.

Near the center of the Island, stands a most remarkable and interesting INDIAN MONUMENT. It consists of a mound, whose area is somewhat less than an acre — in form elliptical — with a diameter in the direction of the major axis, of about three hundred feet, and a diameter in the direction of the minor axis, of one hundred and twenty feet. The average elevation of this tumulus, appeared to be some twenty feet, or more. It looks to the north-east and south-west.

The approaches seemed to have been made from either end of the mound, but especially from the south-eastern extremity; the ascent there, being far more gradual

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than at the other sides. The surface is generally quite level, with however, an observable depression toward the central portion, thereby causing an apparent elevation at either end. The symmetry of the south-eastern side, has been somewhat impaired, in all probability by the action of the river current during a severe freshet in years long since past. There, the wall of the mound is perpendicular, and its contents may be easily ascertained upon a casual examination.

A distinguishing peculiarity, which at once engages the attention, and excites the astonishment of the observer, is, that this tumulus is composed in chief, of the muscle, clam, and snail shells of the river. Probably three-fourths of its bulk consist of this material. The imagination almost fails intelligently to estimate the labor, the persevering, the continuous, the enormous labor, which collected this immense mass. These shells were doubtless, all obtained from the circumfluent river, and its tributaries; but who will calculate the countless, weary miles traversed in the industrious search for them; who reckon aright the days, weeks, months, years — yes, centuries, that must have elapsed, as the toil of one generation was added to that of another, in order that this tumulus might swell into its present stupendous proportions?

Those mighty piles, the Pyramids,

"Time's gnomons, rising on the bank of Nile,"

are unparalleled examples of the results, which may be

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achieved by combined physical industry, and consecutive labor. It will be remembered however, that Egypt *was converted into a land of slaves*, to raise a monument to Cheops, which should out live the feeble generations of mankind. Here however, we have a mound, — the result of the united effort of many generations — *the offspring of inclination, and not of constraint* — a tumulus, designed to perpetuate, not the empty name of a tyrant king, but the devotion which the Indians of this region cherished for the peace, the security, the memory of their dead.

No epitaph gratifies the idle curiosity of the spectator, — the traditions of the place are gone — the dead, who here lie entombed, are nameless now; yet, this tumulus has stood for centuries, and will remain for ages yet to come, a speaking commentary upon the virtues, the industry, and the humanity of the Children of the Forest.

To such a marked degree do these shells enter into the composition of this mound, that upon its summit, no tree or shrub flourishes — nothing save coarse grass, and occasional cedars, struggling into a stunted existence.

The use of the shell, as a covering for their tumuli, was not unfrequent among the Indians who inhabited the coast regions of our State; their object apparently being, with the aid of this material — almost indestructible as it is by the natural elements, — to impart a permanency to the graves of their dead, which could not

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otherwise be readily attained. From the extended oyster beds in the vicinity, exhaustless supplies of shells could be, and readily were obtained. The present mound however, occupying the position that it does, is most unique.

Several pits have been opened in the north-eastern end. At the depth of twelve feet, the amount of shells was undiminished. They appear to have been distributed in layers of eight or ten inches in thickness, with intervening strata of sand. An examination into the contents of the mound, proves conclusively, that it must have been used only for burial purposes — that it is in fact, a huge necropolis.

It could not have been the work of a year, or of a generation. Strata upon strata have been heaped, each covering the dead of its age, until by degrees, and with the lapse of time, (how long, who can tell?) it grew into its present surprising dimensions.

Skeletons abound. One of them in particular — in a reclining posture — lay with the head to the north, the palms of the hands resting against either cheek. From the wrists and neck, were taken numerous shell beads; which, when strung, filled a thread nine feet in length. Interesting pipes of steatite, and axes of cyanite, were also exhumed. Interspersed in every direction, appeared fragments of pottery. No traces of incineration could be perceived, nor were any specimens of metalic construction ascertained to exist.

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We are clearly of opinion, that this mound is of purely Indian origin. There are no circumstances or peculiarities, suggesting the slightest probability of its connection, with either the Toltec or Aztec Race. It has nothing in common with the monuments of the Mississippi Valley, or with those anomalous ruins — extant within the limits of our own State, — which indicate in far distant periods, the past existence of a people, prior in point of time, and superior in point of civilization, to the Indians who here inhabited, when Georgia was first settled by the whites.

The lower portions of Stalling's Island, subject as they must be to at least an occasional over-flow, could never have been inhabited by the Indians. In order to ensure an exemption from this casualty, selecting the most elevated part of the island, they there erected this immense tumulus, reaching far above the swollen tide, wherein the dead of the children of the forest might repose in undisturbed silence and security.

There is something solemnly affecting, and deeply interesting in the thought, that by common consent, this quiet, retired, beautiful place, should have been consecrated exclusively to the purposes of burial. The absence of mounds in the vicinity — the unusual dimensions of this tumulus — the numerous skeletons entombed within its bosom — all attest the fact, that this must have been used as the general cemetery of the Tribes, who occupied the adjacent hills and fruitful val-

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leys. No more attractive spot, no more suitable location in this entire region, could have been selected.

Removed from the noise and confusion of the villages, and yet so near, that the bright rays of the fires, nightly kindled upon either bank, shooting athwart the darkling tide, revealed the outlines of this island of the dead, — away from the forest path, trod by the hunter — away from the conflicting voices of the council-lodge, and the wild delights of the place of feasting and dancing, — and yet, just where the eye of affection could ever turn and rest upon its hallowed form.

It is at all times a fearful thing to contemplate the approach of death; to look forward to an occupancy of that lonely dwelling, prepared for all the living; and yet, in view of the poetic temperament of the Indian — in view of the peculiar religious belief cherished by him, with reference to a future state, — we may well imagine how pleasing must have been his anticipations, as he regarded this mound-tomb, — rich in the associations, the consecrated recollections of the past — hallowed by the beloved and honored dust of centuries — as his own final resting place; as the starting point, whence he himself, when the light of his wigwam grew dim, might enter upon the happy journey to the spirit land, and live anew amid the hunting grounds of the blest, whither his fathers had gone before.

Here it stands, a speaking commentary upon that respect for the dead, that veneration for departed worth

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and affection, that sincere respect and esteem for the bones of their ancestors, which in a marked degree, must have characterized these untutored sons of nature.

The vulgar tongue that talks lightly of the dead, and the vandal hand that would invade the sanctity of the tomb, may well learn here, a lesson of tender and abiding interest.

No wonder the Indians loved their hunting grounds — their pleasant springs — and above all, no marvel that they clung with a tenacity, a devotion which death alone could teach them to forget, to the burial grounds, consecrated for centuries, by the dust of their fathers.

Who will recall the historic associations which cluster about this silent, and yet not voiceless tomb? Who enumerate the vicissitudes which have occurred, since the first canoe, with measured dip, and accompanying train of mourners, landed here its precious burden? Whose memory will recount the names, numbers, and lives of those who have been here interred? Who tell the day, when the first tear was shed above the first sleeper, when they laid him to rest beneath the sombre shadows of these over-arching trees? What changes! what wars and commotions! what revolutions of States! since the first shell, pure and bright from the bosom of the limpid river, was laid upon the new-made grave!

The hand of the conqueror has been heavily, ruthlessly laid upon those, who here garnered up their choicest and most sacred affections. Even their mem-

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ory is fading from the recollection of those, who have supplanted them in the dominion over forest, hill, and river; and yet decay — more kind than they — leaves untouched this sad memorial of their sorrows, this striking monument of their affection, and veneration for the dead. The forest trees, with their sturdy roots, protect the symmetry of the mound — their overarching branches shielding its outlines from the ruthless influences of the storm. The murmuring voices of the stream, which so often charmed the living ear, still bring joy and gladness as in days of yore; and the song-bird yet warbles sweetly his morning and evening lays, above the sleeping dead.

All else is hushed; save the whispers of the passing air amid the forest branches, the startled note of the solitary water-fowl, frightened from its retreat among the reeds by the passing boat, and the soothing ripple of the river. The living Indians, where are they?

"A noble race! but they are gone,
With their old forests wide and deep,
And we have built our homes upon
Fields, where their generations sleep.
Their fountains slake our thirst at noon,
Upon their fields our harvest waves,
Our lovers woo beneath their moon, —
Then let us spare at least their graves."

The warrior — his proud heart pulseless, his spear-heads scattered, his tomahawk rusting near his nerveless arm — the sage chieftain, — his council fires dead, his heroic deeds unsung, his memory forgotton — the medi-

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cine man, — his healing arts entombed, his charms turned to dust, his potent herbs ungathered in the tangled brake — the soft-eyed maiden, upon whose broken vows the evening star never shone — the sober matron, — her labors done — the tender infant, — here they all rest in one common grave, and here they will remain, until the last trump shall summon both conqueror and conquered, before the judgment seat of Him who is mightier than them all.

In strains of touching pathos, has an American poet portrayed the feelings of the returning Indian at the burial place of his fathers:

"It is the spot I came to seek —
My father's ancient burial place;
Ere from these vales, ashamed and weak,
Withdrew our wasted race.
It is the spot — I know it well —
Of which our old traditions tell.

"For here, the upland bank sends out
A ridge toward the river side;
I know the shaggy hills about,
The meadows smooth and wide,
The plains, that toward the southern sky,
Fenced east and west by mountains, lie.

"A white man gazing on the scene,
Would say a lovely spot was here,
And praise the lawns, so fresh and green,
Between the hills so sheer.
I like it not — I would the plain
Lay in its tall old groves again.

"The sheep are on the slopes around,
The cattle in the meadows feed,

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And laborers turn the crumbling ground,
Or drop the yellow seed;
And prancing steeds, in trappings gay,
Whirl the bright chariot o'er the way.

"Methinks it were a nobler sight
To see these vales in woods arrayed,
Their summits in the golden light,
Their trunks in grateful shade —
And herds of deer, that bounding go
O'er hills and prostrate trees below.

"And then to mark the lord of all,
The forest hero, trained to wars,
Quivered and plumed, and lithe and tall,
And seamed with glorious scars,
Walk forth, amid his reign to dare
The wolf, and grapple with the bear.

"This bank in which the dead were laid,
Was sacred, when the soil was ours;
Hither the silent Indian maid
Brought wreaths of beads and flowers;
And the gay chief, and gifted seer,
Worshipped the God of thunders here.

"But now the wheat is green and high,
On clods that hid the warrior's breast,
And scattered in the furrows lie,
The weapons of his rest.
And there, in the loose sand, is thrown
Of his large arm, the mouldering bone.

"Ah! little thought the strong and brave
Who bore their lifeless chieftain forth —
Or the young wife, that weeping gave
Her first-born to the earth,
That the pale race, who waste us now,
Among their bones should guide the plough.

"They waste us — ay, like April snow
In the warm noon, we shrink away;

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And fast they follow, as we go
Towards the setting day,—
Till they shall fill the land — and we
Are driven into the western sea.

"But I behold a fearful sign,
To which the white man's eyes are blind;
Their race may vanish hence, like mine,
And leave no trace behind,
Save ruins o'er the region spread,
And the white stones above the dead.

"Before these fields were shorn and tilled,
Full to the brim our rivers flowed;
The melody of waters filled
The fresh and boundless wood;
And torrents dashed and rivulets played,
And fountains spouted in the shade.

"Those grateful sounds are heard no more,
The springs are silent in the sun;
The rivers, by the blackened shore,
With lessening current run;
The realm our tribes are crushed to get,
May be a barren desert yet."

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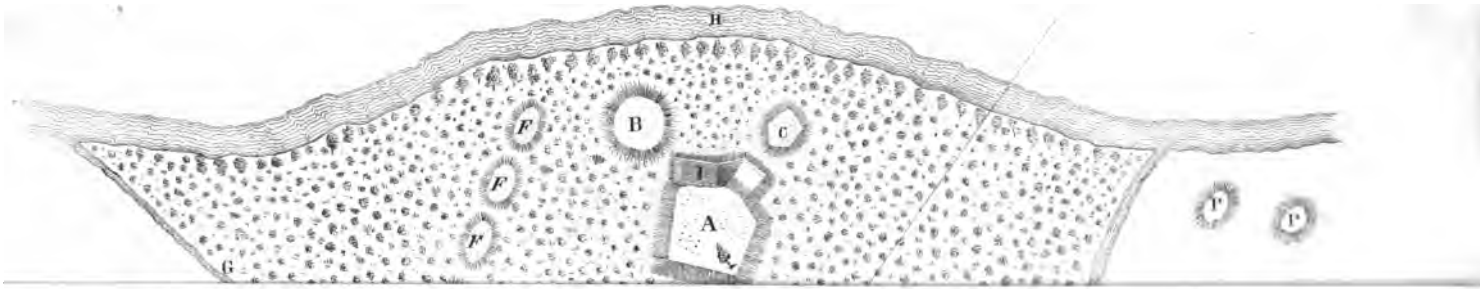

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Monumental Remains

OF THE

Etowah and Oostanaula Valleys, etc.

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Second Monograph.

The most remarkable of the Monumental Remains of the Etowah and Oostanaula Valleys, are located upon the plantation of Colonel Lewis Tumlin, some two miles distant from the town of Cartersville, in the county of Cass. There are few monuments, amid the vast numbers which have been observed and described in the valleys of the Ohio, the Scioto, the Mississippi, and elsewhere within the limits of the United States, which can compare with the present, in extent and interest. Situated upon the right bank of the Etowah River, in the midst of a perfectly level alluvial bottom, they tower above all surrounding objects, changeless amid the revolutions of centuries.

They consist of a series of mounds (the character and position of which will be hereafter more particularly considered,) surrounded by a large and deep moat — the traces of which are not only now perceptible, but quite distinct, — which, when filled with tide of the river, would have effectually isolated all the space included within its enclosure. The Etowah River here turns toward the south; after a gentle sweep, again recovering its wonted course, thus forming a graceful bend.

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This moat originally communicated at either end with the river. This fact is still apparent, although the current of the stream, in its flow of years, has filled to a very great extent the mouths of the ditch, thus preventing the influx and reflux of the tide. Formerly the water must have coursed freely through it, thus isolating the enclosed space, and constituting quite a formidable obstacle in the path of an attacking foe. This ditch varies in depth and width; in some places possessing still a depth of twenty feet — in others, of not more than eight or ten; and differing in width from fifteen to forty feet.

North and west of the mounds situated within this enclosure, and along the line of the moat, are two excavations, designated in the accompanying diagram, by the letters D D, of nearly equal extent — each having at present a conjectured area of about an acre, and a depth of some twenty-five or thirty feet. With these excavations, the moat communicates directly, so that the same rising tide in the river, which flowed into the ditch, would also convert them into deep ponds, or huge reservoirs.

The reason why these excavations were made is evident. The earth removed in constructing the moat, did not suffice to build even a moiety of the immense tumuli within the enclosure. Hence, in order to swell them into their present stupendous proportions, the mound builders were compelled to resort to these enor-

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mous excavations, which still exist, and will remain for ages yet to come, wonderful proofs of their labor and protracted industry. The space included within the limits of the moat — the river forming the boundary to the south and south-east, — is between forty and fifty acres. This moat is distinguished on the accompanying plan by the letters G G G; at the points T T, communication can be had from the enclosed area to the surrounding valley. Whether these embankments are portions of the original work, thereby at ordinary times affording the means of ready ingress and egress; or whether they have subsequently been there placed for the purposes of convenience, cannot now be positively ascertained. The first hypothesis however, under the circumstances, commends itself to our approval; in as much as there are no appearances of any recent removal of earth, with which these crossings could have been made; and it would have been a very easy matter, in a short time to have removed them, in case it were deemed necessary to fill the entire moat.

From the general appearance and nature of the works, we are induced to believe, that these excavations were designed to answer another purpose. They might have been, and probably were intended as huge reservoirs, wherein a supply of water, sufficient to flow the entire moat, might have been detained, and preserved ready for an emergency. The streams of this region, springing as they do from hilly sources, and passing through

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valleys, are rapid in their currents, and subject to great increase and diminution in volume. In the Spring of the year, full to the brim, and not unfrequently overflowing their banks; the summer sun finds them with lessened current. When therefore, the water was low in the Etowah, it might have been a difficult, if not an impossible matter, to have filled the moat. By permitting these reservoirs, however, to be completely filled by the freshet tides of the Spring, an amount of water, sufficient at any time to flow the moat, could, with but little trouble, have been readily obtained and preserved. The compact earth, at the depth of twenty-five or thirty feet, would suffer but little percolation; while with the ever changing current of the river, opportunities would be constantly presented, for supplying any deficiency that might have been caused by evaporation.

Within the enclosure, formed by the moat and the river, there are seven mounds. Three of them are however, preëminent in size; one in particular — designated in the accompanying diagram by the letter A, — far surpassing all the others in its stupendous proportions, and in the degree of interest which attaches to it.

This large central mound A, stands almost midway between the moat and the river — a little nearer the latter. Its position is commanding, and to the eye of the observer, as it rests upon its august proportions for the first time, it seems a monument of the past ages, — venerable in its antiquity — solemn in its silent, and yet

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not voiceless memories, — a remarkable monument of the power and industry of some unknown race. It belongs not to this generation. The hunter-tribes had naught to do with its erection. The offspring of an ancient people, who have passed forever beyond the confines of this beautiful valley, it stands a solemn monument, ever repeating the story of their greatness, while all else connected with them, and they themselves, are sleeping beneath the shadows of a forgotten past.

Composed of native earth, simple yet impressive in form, it seems calculated for an almost endless duration. Although no historian has chronicled the names and deeds of those, who aided in its construction — although no poet's song commemorates the virtues, the manners, the loves, the wars, the brave deeds of those, who here inhabited — still, this monument exists, speaking a language, perchance more impressive, than the most studied epitaph upon Parian marble.

In building this mound, the fact, — as disclosed upon an examination of its constitution, as it has been partially made manifest by the action of countless showers upon its slopes, — seems evident, that the earth removed from the moat, and the excavations D D, was first used. The surface of the ground for a considerable distance around the mound, was then evenly removed, and this rich loam placed upon the summit of the tumulus. Located in the midst of an alluvial bottom, as level as a table — this circumstance is easily ascertained at a mo-

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ment's view, for the surface of the ground dips on all sides towards the mound to such an extent, that it appears to rise out of a natural basin.

This central tumulus is some eighty feet, or more, above the level of the valley. There is no geological formation entering in the smallest degree into its composition. To all appearances, it consists entirely of the earth taken from the moat and the excavations, in connection with the soil removed from around its base; having received no assistance whatever from any natural hill or elevation. In fact, its location — situated as it is in the midst of a rich alluvial bottom, at a remove from rocks, hills or elevations of any character — precludes the idea of its having received any additions from such sources. In view of this circumstance, its stupendous proportions become the more surprising.

In form, it may be regarded as quadrangular, if we disregard a small angle to the south. That taken into account, gives us a pentagonal form, as follows: length of northern side, one hundred and fifty feet — length of eastern side, one hundred and sixty feet — length of south-eastern side, one hundred feet — length of southern side, ninety feet, and length of western side, one hundred feet.

Measured in the direction of east and west, its apex diameter is two hundred and twenty-five feet — while the diameter, as measured north and south, falls a little short, being about two hundred and twenty-two feet.

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The apex surface of this tumulus is nearly level. Originally it was crowned with the most luxuriant vegetation, but the utilitarian arm of the husbandman, has shorn it of this attraction. A solitary tree stands near the northern extremity. The native weeds, and annual grasses flourish however, in such rich profusion, that the steps of the observer are seriously impeded. The view of the surrounding country from the summit of this tumulus, is highly attractive. Almost at its base, flows the ever-changing tide of the Etowah River, seen through the dark green foliage adorning its banks — coursing onward and onward through the fertile valley — the hill-sides on every hand bending to catch its refreshing influences. Alternate fields and forests charm the eye. The rich alluvial bottoms, teeming with the products of intelligent industry — the crests of the neighboring hills, adorned with pleasant cottages, their sides covered with well cultivated orchards — the consecrated spire, rising from the oak-grove which marks the suburbs of a neighboring village — all proclaim in glad accord, the happy reign of peace and plenty. Tender must have been the attachment, with which the Mound-Builders regarded this beautiful valley.

The approach to this mound, is from the east by south. The other sides are too precipitous to permit any other, than perhaps an Alpine guide, to accomplish the ascent. The angles of the mound, are still sharply defined. That approach was effected by the aid of ter-

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races, — rising one above the other, — inclined planes leading from the one to the other. These terraces are sixty-five feet in width — extending from the mound, toward the south-east.

At the eastern angle of this tumulus, there is a pathway, which leads to the summit — affording a tedious ascent to the observer on foot. This pathway follows the eastern angle of the mound, and does not appear to have been intended for general use. May it not have been the fact, that this approach was designed for the priesthood alone, while upon the broad terraces, the assembled worshippers gave solemn heed to the religious ceremonies, performed upon the eastern summit of the tumulus?

To the east of this large central mound, and so near, that the flanks of both meet and mingle, stands a smaller mound, about forty feet high, circular in form, with an apex diameter of one hundred feet. The symmetrical construction of this tumulus is remarkable. From its western slope, there is an easy, and immediate communication with the terraces of the central mound. This mound is designated in the accompanying plan, by the letter B.

Two hundred and fifty feet, in a westerly direction from this mound, and distant in a southerly direction from the central mound, some sixty feet, is the third and last of this immediate group.

Like both the others, it has been made of the soil of

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the valley, without any assistance from natural elevations. It possesses an altitude of thirty feet or more, and is pentagonal in form. The two diameters, measured across its apex surface, were respectively ninety-two, and sixty-eight feet. It is uniformly level at the top. No definite traces could be perceived of an established approach to the summit. An ascent can readily be effected from any side. This tumulus we have designated by the letter C. These last two mounds, are located between the central mound and the Etowah River — the former (B), lying to the east, the latter (C), to the south.

To the east and north-east of this group, is a chain of four smaller mounds, F F F F, running almost north and south. There is but little interest attaching to them, and nothing, other than their location in the vicinity of these larger tumuli, and their situation within the enclosure formed by the moat and the river, to distinguish them from numerous other earth-mounds, scattered here and there throughout the length and breadth of the Etowah and Oostanaula valleys. The mound E, lying to the north-west of the central group, although possessing a trifling elevation, is somewhat remarkable for its extent; and is completely surrounded by the moat, which at that point divides, with a view to its enclosure. When the ditch was filled with water, this elevation, completely isolated by the tide, must have seemed an island. Outside of the enclosure, and within the

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confines of the valley to the north-east, appears a sharply defined mound R. Lower down the valley, and near the river bank, are seen two other elevations P P.

The inquirer, upon the most casual, as well as after the most careful examination, rests fully satisfied in the belief, that all of these works are of artificial construction. There are no evidences whatever of geological action. The tumuli within the enclosure, are all composed of the materials removed from the moat and excavations, and of sand, loam, and vegetable mould, similar in all respects to the superior surface of the valley, upon which the mounds are seated. The method adopted in the erection of them, appears to have been, by carrying the earth (how we can only conjecture, possibly in bags, skins, baskets, or vessels) and emptying it upon the spot selected as the location for the mound. The slope of the sides of these tumuli, is just that, which would be made by general and gradual accretions of earth, successively deposited in small quantities from above.

The summits of these mounds, as well as the circumjacent valley for miles, have been completely denuded of the original growth, which overspread them in rich profusion. The attractive soil, with its annual generous harvests, is too highly prized by the husbandman, to be allowed to contribute only to the life and beauty of the forest trees. The consequence is, that every outline of

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these remarkable remains can be readily and carefully noted. Upon the summit of the large central mound, still stands the stump of a walnut tree, not less than three feet in diameter.

The first and most natural emotion, suggested upon an examination of these monuments, is one of absolute wonder and astonishment, at the immense amount of industry and labor expended in their construction. Another idea presented, is, that they must have been the result of the combined efforts of many generations; or else, that the population, by whom they were built, must have been very numerous. The veil of an unknown and forgotten past is upon them. No historical records have been left behind; and we are compelled to resort to the internal evidence of these tumuli, to the scattered fragments which are revealed by the spade and plough-share, to form even plausible conjectures, as to the character of the race by whom they were constructed. Unfortunately for the enquirer, the herculean task of opening these mounds has never been attempted. Their contents are secrets still; and we are only in possession of those facts relating to the manners and customs of their authors, which may be gathered from analogy, and from the utensils, idols, and weapons, which have been picked up at their base.

It will be at once remarked by those, who have even to a limited degree bestowed any attention upon the antiquities of our State and Country, that these remains

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are not at all Indian in their origin. They have nothing in common with those, ascertained to have been constructed by the Indians who here inhabited, when this region was first peopled by the whites.

We have also the positive testimony of the Cherokee Indians to the effect, that they had not even a tradition of the race by whom these works were made.*

The authors of these tumuli, were probably idol worshippers. Idols have been found at their base, indicating in their formation, a degree of skill superior to that possessed by the Cherokees. It is a well ascertained fact, that the Indians of this region never, either made or worshipped idols.†

Among the Cherokees, neither idols nor idol worship were ever ascertained to exist. Their religious belief, the theory of a future state, as cherished by them, all forbid the supposition that these idols were ever fashioned by the Cherokees. Again — no people, who had not advanced in civilization beyond the nomadic state — changing their seats as often as fancy or a scarcity of game might suggest — would have undertaken the erection of such vast earth works, involving immense labor, and designed for almost endless duration. Men must have emerged from the hunter state; they must have become more advanced in civilization; population must

* See Travels of Wm. Bartram, pp. 265, 266. See also, Harris' Journal, &c., pp. 147, 148. Also, History of Wisconsin, p. 245.

† See Bartram's Travels, pp. 495, 496. Adair's History American Indians, pp. 19, 22.

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have become dense, before the erection of such temples — such fortifications could be undertaken.

There was not in the sixteenth century, a single tribe of Indians, between the Atlantic and Pacific, which had means of subsistance, sufficient to enable them to apply for such purposes, the unproductive labor necessary for the erection of such a work. Nor was there any, in such a social state, as would enable a chief to compel the labor of the nation to be thus applied. It is only under despotic forms of government, that pyramids will be erected in honor of a prince — or such huge earth works for religious purposes.*

It is evident then, that these monuments never were constructed by the Indians, who possessed this region when Georgia was first peopled by the whites. Like that system of ancient mounds and fortifications, scattered over that well defined area, comprising the hydrographical basin of the Mississippi, over which the forest had resumed its sway, the present monuments, can afford us no positive history, either of the period when, or of the people by whom they were built.

Nothing has been more frequent than the effort, by men in all ages, to distinguish themselves and their race, by the erection of monuments, temples, and high-places; thereby attempting to impart permanency to the memory of the departed — solemnity to their religious ceremonies — and dignity to their age.

* See Trans. Amer. Eth. Soc., Vol. I., p. 208.

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The retreating waters of the deluge, had scarce disappeared from the surface of the earth, when mankind undertook the erection of a tower — its summit reaching to Heaven, — that might serve as a great national temple — a proud monument of the power and industry of those by whom it was raised — a grand bond of perpetual union, and a pledge, that amid the changes of coming centuries, the memory of their race should be effectually cherished.

The practice of mound-building, seems in times past, to have existed in almost every region of the world. The mound of earth, in a period of semi-civilization, appears to have suggested itself as the most natural, convenient, and enduring form of perpetuating the memory of the dead, and of constructing lasting temples, for the solemnization of religious rites and ceremonies.

By a comparison of the descriptions of those ancient works in Europe and Asia, with those now in existence in many parts of our country, we find them both remarkably similar in the method of their construction, in the materials employed, and the articles found within them. This group of mounds, closely resembles many that have been examined in the valleys of the Scioto, the Ohio, and the Mississippi. They are the fruits of the industry and labor of the same race.

The researches of Dr. Atwater, as presented in his article prepared for the American Antiquarian Society,

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have led him to believe, that these people derived their origin primarily from Hindostan.

Without pausing to enumerate the proofs, varied, and perhaps substantial, upon which the supposition rests, we may here state in general terms, that all the probabilities point to *Asia*, as the country, whence came the earliest inhabitants of America. When, and at what place they first located, cannot at this remove be definitely ascertained. While there are, here and there, indications of what may be termed an intrusive type of civilization, referred by some, to occasional adventures and migrations, having their impulse from the east, towards the Atlantic coast; we incline to that opinion, which looks to Mexico, as the parent of that immediate civilization which originated in this valley, as well as in the valleys of the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Scioto, and elsewhere, these remarkable monuments of the industry, religious zeal,. and military skill of that people, who are, in the absence of their ascertained name, denominated Mound-Builders. The remains which they have left behind them, are many of them precisely similar to those, which have been exhumed in the valleys, and at the base of those ancient temples, seated upon the plains of Mexico.

Another fact, worthy of notice, is this: these remains are generally located upon, or near streams, having communication directly or indirectly with the Gulf of Mexico.

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Such is the case, with respect to the tumuli now under consideration.

Idol worship, is another proof in support of this hypothesis.

These Mound-Builders seem to have been an agricultural people. This is a reasonable deduction from the fact, that their tumuli, temples, and fortifications, generally appear upon fertile ground only — almost always upon the rich alluvial bottoms of the rivers, — lands which might be cultivated for years, without the necessity of the application of fertilizers.

Another inference suggested by the location of all their works, which appear to have been devoted to sacred uses, is, that *ablution* was a recognized religious rite.

Again — the Mound-Builders evidently were surrounded by enemies, against whom they were forced to protect themselves. Else, why these fortifications, — laborious in their construction, — attendant upon so many settlements formed by these people?

It will be observed, that their locations are definite, indicating either a direct line of immigration pursued by them; or if there be no permanent intermediate sojourn, then only here and there a fort hastily and temporarily constructed, until some suitable location is selected, where they congregate, erecting their temples, building their fortifications, and cultivating their fruitful valleys.

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We may well conceive, how a common danger, and a sense of impending destruction, might concentrate the energies of a tribe in the hunter state, and accomplish the occasional erection of fortifications, which even at this day, would excite surprise, and attract the attention of the antiquary. But in the case of the Mound-Builders, we are led to the conclusion, that they were under a government, widely differing from that which obtained among the Indians — a government, in which the will of the ruler was the undisputed will of the people — where the energies of the entire community were directed, and expended in conformity with the order and edicts of the chief in command. Upon no other theory, can we account for these uniform and enormous exhibitions of combined labor and industry. We infer further from the location of these monuments, that the Mound-Builders occupied permanent seats, which they probably changed not, until forced by the conquering arm of the surrounding foe, to abandon the beautiful locations where they had fixed their homes. Their settlements, as has already been intimated, were almost always chosen, where the attractions of the soil promised a ready and bountiful reward to agricultural industry. Radiating in communities, from the perchance over-crowded seats of Mexican civilization, they ascended the principal streams, and their branches, having communication either directly or indirectly with the Mexican Gulf, or with the ocean; locating here and

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there along their banks, in the richest alluvial bottoms — or in the valleys of some sister stream, where they could with success pursue their agricultural arts, build their temples, and worship their gods. That some of these valleys must have been densely populated, and for a long period of time, is clearly proven, both by the number and the character of the remains still in existence. That the valley of the Etowah must have been a chosen seat, is most evident. It is only through the exertions of a dense population, that such monuments could be erected; only amid a people, who looked not to a precarious subsistence, to be gathered from the wild animals of the forest, or the fish of the stream, but who had come to love the soil upon which they had fixed their homes, who had learned to appreciate the value of the annual harvest, who had called in the assistance of the domesticated animal, and who were accustomed to the benefits which flow from an organized government, and the social state.

That the population must have been both permanent and numerous, is susceptible of easy proof. How great that population was, cannot now be determined. No historian has left the record of their manners, government, and laws; — no voice, save that silent speaking testimony of these monuments, proclaims their past greatness. No reply is heard in definite response, by him, who knocks at their tombs.

Mr. Brackenridge has conjectured, that there were

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once five thousand villages of this people, in the valley of the Mississippi — and it is the belief of Dr. Atwater, founded upon extensive observation, that the population which once possessed the valleys of the Ohio, must have exceeded seven hundred thousand. Many of the mounds there examined, contained an immense number of skeletons. Those of Big Grave Creek, are believed to be completely filled with human bones. Millions of human beings have been interred in or near these tumuli. To have sustained such a population, extensive resort must have been had to agricultural pursuits.

A small excavation, made in the western part of the mound B, began to reveal human bones. The examination was not prosecuted to a satisfactory extent. An ancient tumulus located immediately at the junction of the Etowah and Oostanaula Valleys, in Floyd County, was a few years since almost entirely removed, in leveling the streets of the village of Rome. It was completely filled with human bones, and various remains, of which we shall subsequently furnish an extended notice. Along the bank of the river just here, appeared numerous skeletons in confusion, lying about four feet below the surface.

The indications of this locality would seem to designate it as a general necropolis. The remains existing every where in this valley, assure us of the fact, that this remarkable people, in years long since past, must in large numbers, have fixed here their favorite and permanent abodes.

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The antiquity of these remains, may be inferred in general terms, from the following considerations:

First — Of their origin, of the time when built, and of the race by whom they were constructed, the Cherokees had no knowledge, traditional or otherwise. The Cherokees claim for themselves a residence of many generations in this region. They declare further, that when their forefathers first possessed themselves of this land, they expelled from its beautiful valleys a tribe of Indians, who, like themselves — although for a long period occupants of the soil, — could give no information respecting the origin of these tumuli. If then we may believe the traditions of the Cherokees, the age of these works, may be estimated by centuries.

Secondly — The character of these structures, affords an argument for their antiquity. They are not the hastily thrown up entrenchments of migrating bands; but, on the contrary, are the ruins of temples, burial places, fortifications of massive, carefully considered, durable dimensions, all indicating the consecutive, combined, extensive labor of a large population, permanently established.

Herodotus was informed by the priests of Memphis, that one hundred thousand workmen were employed for the period of twenty years, in the construction of the pyramid of Cheops. We may well imagine, that many years were consumed in the erection of these monuments. If then, to the time requisite for the preparation of the surface of the ground, we add the length of

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time consumed in the actual construction of these works; —add to this, the period intervening between their completion and their abandonment — the length of which, although entirely open to conjecture, could certainly have been by no means inconsiderable; — and then consider the fact, that the Indians, who preceded us in the occupancy of this region, could give no imformation whatever in reference to them, the mind, in endeavoring to locate their origin, is at once and irresistibly led back to a remote date.

Thirdly — The large trees, with which these long deserted monuments were once over-grown, intimate the length of years that they have remained uncultivated — forgotten wastes — and add testimony of remote antiquity. We have already alluded to the circumstance, that the summits of these tumuli, the banks of the moat, and all the space included within the enclosure formed by the moat and the river, were once covered with an immense growth of forest trees, as large, and luxuriant, and to all appearances quite as old as any vegetation of this region.

The stump of a walnut tree — whose diameter cannot be less than three feet, — still stands upon the apex of the central mound. It is however, in such a decayed condition, that the concentric circles could not be definitely ascertained. To appreciate aright the force of this argument for the antiquity of these remains, we must remember, that the process by which nature re-

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stores the forest to its original state, after it has been once cleared, is extremely slow.

Says a prominent writer: In our rich lands, it is indeed soon covered with timber; but the character of the growth is entirely different, and continues so, through many generations of men. The sites of the ancient works on the Ohio, present an appearance precisely similar to that of the circumjacent forest. [Such was emphatically the case with regard to these tumuli upon the banks of the Etowah, before the axe of the white man robbed them, and the adjacent valley for miles, of the magnificent growth which completely over-shadowed them.] You find on them, continues the writer, all that beautiful variety of trees, which gives such unrivalled richness to our forests.

This is particularly the case on the fifteen acres included within the walls of the work at the mouth of the Great Miami, and the relative proportions of the different kinds of timber, are the same. The first growth, on the same kind of land once cleared, and then abandoned to nature, on the contrary, is more homogeneous, often stinted to one or two, or at most three kinds of timber. If the ground has been cultivated, yellow locust in many places will spring up as thick as garden peas. If it has not been cultivated, the black and white walnut will be the prevailing growth. The rapidity with which these trees grow for a time, smothers the attempt of other kinds, to vegetate and grow in

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their shade. The more thrifty individuals soon over-top the weaker of their own kind, which sicken and die. In this way, there are only as many left as the earth will support to maturity.

This state of things will not however, always continue. The preference of the soil for its first growth, ceases with its maturity. It admits of no succession upon the principles of legitimacy. The long undisputed masters of the forest, may be thinned by the lightning, the tempests, or by diseases peculiar to themselves; and whenever this is the case, one of the oft-rejected of another family, will find between its decaying roots, shelter and appropriate food; and springing into vigorous growth, will soon push its green foliage to the skies, through the decayed and withering limbs of its blasted and dying adversary; the soil itself yielding it a more liberal support, than any scion from the former occupants. It will easily be conceived, what a length of time it will require, for a denuded tract of land, by a process so slow, again to clothe itself with the amazing variety of foliage, which is the characteristic of the forests of this region.

Of what an immense age then, must be these works, covered so recently with the second growth, after the ancient forest state had been regained.*

* Says Caleb Alwater, in speaking of the antiquity of the monuments of the Ohio Valley: "The botany of the country has been consulted on this subject. It would have taken some time for the seeds of plants and trees, to have been completely scattered over a whole country, ex-

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Thus do these considerations all attest the great antiquity of these remains.

Fourthly — It will be remembered that earthen structures, as a general rule, are not greatly impaired by the lapse of time. If favorably located, but little perceptible change is caused by the action of the natural elements. Most certain it is, that monuments of a similar character, are among the most ancient which have been preserved, and are more enduring than the most solid specimens of architecture. That mound at Aconithus, which the Persians raised over Artachies, the superintendent of the canal at Athos, still exists, in its general features unchanged; while the most elaborate and beautiful masterpieces of the Grecian artists, scattered and broken, lie mingled with the common dust.

Six hundred years before Christ, near Sardis, in Asia Minor, the Lydians erected a great mound-tomb over Alyattes, the father of Crœsus. It still stands, while the architectural monuments of the intermediate twenty-five hundred years, have many of them, crumbled into forgetfulness and nothingness; and it may be, that these very monuments may out-live many of the most striking achievements of our present civilization.

tensively cultivated by a considerable population. Now the only difference between the botany of the country, where the works are found, and those tracts, where there are none, is, that the trees are the largest on and about the works. Trees of the largest size, whose concentric annular rings have been counted, have in many instances, as many as four hundred, and they appear to be at least the third growth. since the works were occupied." See Arch. Amer., Vol. I., pp. 219, 306.

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Fifthly — Another argument which might be adduced in support of the antiquity of these works is, that they were constructed in the *mound-building age* — a period distinctly marked in the history of the civilization of the world.

Sixthly — Another circumstance worthy of note is, that the people who built these works, were idol worshippers. Subseqently, will be presented a description of an idol, found at the very base of the large central tumulus. Sacred and profane history alike teach us, that there was a time when all nations, except the Hebrew tribes, and those brought directly in contact with them, were idolaters.

It is an interesting fact, and one which seems to be well ascertained by the observations of the intelligent, that the sun was worshipped by the Mound-Builders.* These tumuli are usually so situated, as to afford a good and early view of the rising sun. The approaches are from the east.

If we examine these monuments of the Etowah Valley, with reference to this fact, we will find in them a confirmation of this theory. The principal angle of the large central mound A, looks directly towards the east.

* The doctrine of the worship of the sun, was the structure, upon which was based the foundation of their general system. We have no positive evidence, and can only conjecture by the apparent astronomical positions, and the enigmatical forms of the mounds to be found in the west, that the worship of the sun, at the time of the discovery, was still maintained at Marietta, Kaskaskia Cahokia, and Grave Creek, where the principal mound-structures and ruins now exist. See Schoolcraft's History, &c., p. 593.

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The approach, by means of the terraces, is eastward. The mounds B and C, look directly to the east and west. There is that about this group, which suggests the impression, that the principal interest concentered about the eastern portion of the central mound. It was there that they probably offered their sacrifices. Thither the eyes of the assembled worshippers were turned at the sacred hour, and from thence, the expectant eye of the officiating priest caught the earliest ray of the rising sun, as lifting his gorgeous face from out the shadows of the far off hills, he looked and smiled upon this beautiful valley. Where are now those temples, Angel of Light, which once flamed at thy coming, over all this region? Where the consecrated priesthood, that from thy rising beams kindled anew the hallowed fires? Where the assembled worshippers, who, with reverential gaze, greeted thy dawning glories? Still thou pursuest thy sublime march,

—— "first of all the starry choir,"

but these, thy votaries, are gone — their shades are mute, and thou sheddest thy benign influences upon another race, rejoicing in the light and love of a new civilization, a holier religion.

This idol worship — this reverence paid to the sun and moon — the location of their temples — the condition of the arts and sciences, as they are ascertained by the remains still extant, to have existed among them —

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the political economy of this people, as far as we have been able to arrive at it by analogy, — all suggest the idea, that the civilization of the Mound-Builders should be referred secondarily to a Mexican origin. We are the more readily inclined to this, when we remark the direct similarity which exists in many important particulars. In the history of the Mound-Builders, we discover only such modifications, as are incident to that colonial state, which is not in the possession of all those appliances, which appertain to the well established homes of the parent civilization. We are well aware that it is the conjecture of some, whose ethnological researches entitle their opinions to no little weight and consideration, that this ancient people — the authors alike of the monuments of the Mississippi, the Ohio, and the Etowah valleys, — emigrating from Asia, at some remote period, made their first settlements around the waters of the northern lakes, following in their progress south-west, the streams and rivers which empty into the Gulf of Mexico, and leaving in every place of their residence, traces of the degree of their civilization and improvement.*

There is probably no doubt of the fact, that we must look to Asia as the source of American civilization; † but why locate the early settlements around the waters

* Arch. Amer., Vol. I., p. 4.

† See Cabell's Unity of Mankind, p. 178, et seq. See Pickering's Races of Men, p. 294, et seq. See Schoolcraft's History, &c., Part 1, pp. 22, 24.

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of the northern lakes, in preference to the shores and lakes of Mexico? By a reference to the earliest annals, and remote histories of Mexican civilization, we are informed, that the Toltecs, driven from their native country, after a long navigation along the coast of California, arrived at Huehuetlapallan (old Tlapallan) in the year 387 after Christ. Thence, sailing along Xalisco, and traversing several provinces, they arrived at Tochtepec on the south sea. Subsequently they colonized Tollantzinco, and finally founded the city of Tollan, where they elected their first king, Chalchiuhtlanetzin, in the year of our Lord 510. Then follows a list of nine sovereigns, under whose reign the Toltec monarchy extended its dominion over one thousand leagues. During that period, a number of large cities was founded — the ruins of some of which are still extant. The last king, Topiltzin, ascended the throne A. D. 882. Under his reign, the country was desolated by sterility, plague and famine. Most of the vassal princes rebelled, a dreadful civil war ensued, equally fatal to both parties, which terminated in the overthrow of the monarchy, and the almost total destruction of the nation itself. Fernando D' Alva, in one of his relations states, that during the last war, which continued for a period of three years, one month and eighteen days, there perished, on both sides together, five millions six hundred thousand souls. Some of the Toltecs fled into distant provinces. Others quitted the country precipitately, and forever.

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Very few remained in the vicinity of the Lake of Mexico. This occurred about the middle of the tenth century. The Toltecs were great idolaters. Their principal Gods were the sun and moon, and one of their especial missions, appeared to have been the erection of vast temples.*

Is the supposition either unreasonable or improbable, that these Toltec bands — outcasts from their own land — warred against by the surrounding nations, — and rent by domestic feuds, should have betaken themselves to the quest of new seats — new homes, new fields, which they could again cultivate; where they could anew erect their fallen altars, and build their massive temples? Recollecting their fondness for agricultural pursuits — the necessity for the presence of water, for the proper solemnization of their religious ceremonies — the fear of persecution, and utter destruction, which would impel them far away from their former regions,— does it not appear probable, that after coasting along the shore, they ascended the mouths of the Mississippi, higher and higher, occupying its rich alluvial bottoms, settling upon the banks of its tributaries, and where ever the attractions of neighboring localities received at their hands a ready recognition; until, with the lapse of years, not only the Mississippi, but also the Ohio, and other valleys, became filled with their increasing

* See Trans. Amer. Eth. Soc., Vol. I., p. 151.

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population, and the ever multiplying monuments of their skill, industry, and religious zeal.

From other wandering bands, the physical excellencies of the bay of Mobile claimed attention. Ascending the waters of the Alabama, then those of the Coosa — fixing one especial seat, where the laughing waters of the Etowah, meet and mingle with the more sedate current of the Oostanaula, — they finally reached these beautiful valleys, and here erected these remarkable tumuli, which will keep alive for centuries yet to come, the memory of these Toltec refugees.

Other colonies settled in the peninsula of Florida, and through themselves and their descendants, peopled the lakes, river-banks, and coast regions. If this hypothesis be correct, we must assign, as the period of the settlement of certain portions of our country by the Toltecan Race, the third quarter of the tenth century.

Besides the idols, and the other remains already considered, which, in connection with information derived from a critical examination of their temples, tumuli, and fortifications, tend materially to strengthen the conjecture, that these Mound-Builders came from Mexico to these regions, we have the shell ornaments (made from the species *marginella flairda*, occurring on the coast of Florida, along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, and in the West Indies). These shells are found even in the valley of the Ohio, and tell the story of their origin, as clearly, and as conclusively, as if it had been

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traced in living letters upon enduring marble. Specimens abound in almost all of the large tumuli which have been opened. They exist in the tumuli of the Etowah valley.

Again, are seen antique tubes of telescopic device. By placing the eye at the diminished point, the extraneous light is shut from the pupil, and distant objects are more distinctly discovered. The effect, remarks Mr. Schoolcraft, is telescopic, and is the same, which is known to be produced, by directing the sight to the heavens from the bottom of a well; an object which we now understand to have been secured by the Aztec and Mia races, in their astronomical calculations, by constructing tubular chambers.

We have before us a beautiful and valuable remain of this character, accurately constructed, and polished to a remarkable degree, the description of which must be postponed for a later page.

If this Mound-Building race came, as is supposed by some, directly from Asia or Europe, to the shores of the United States, why is it that we perceive no monumental traces of them, in the regions where they must first have landed? Why is it, that they are almost exclusively confined to the valleys of those rivers, and their tributaries, which communicate with the Gulf of Mexico?

It seems evident, again, that we must seek a Mexican origin for this civilization, when we remember that this was a race of agriculturists.

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In the Tennessee valley, ears of maize were exhumed from the graves of this very people. Mr. Harriss, in his Journal, mentions, that in a mound, near the large tumulus on Grave Creek, was found a stone signet, of an oval shape, two inches in length, with a figure in relievo, resembling a note of admiration, surrounded by two raised rims. It was exactly the figure of the brand, with which the Mexican horses were marked.* The head of the Sus-tajassu, or Mexican hog, cut off square, was found in a saltpetre cave in Kentucky, by Dr. Brown. The nitre had preserved it. It had been deposited by the ancient inhabitants, and must have lain there for many centuries. This animal is not found *north of Mexico.*†

Without pausing to enumerate the further arguments and circumstances which might be adduced in support of this hypothesis, and commending to the consideration of those, who are interested in the subject of the origin of the civilization of those portions of North America, which we have been specifically considering, we pass to the inquiry —

How long did the Mound-Builders occupy these regions? They have passed away. Their temples and monuments are tenantless now. The silent past gives back no decisive answer to the voice of inquiry; and from the great unknown void of our aboriginal history, we receive no alphabetic message, save the small circular

* See Harriss' Journal of a Tour, &c., p. 62.
† See Arch. Amer., Vol. I., p. 244.

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stone, wrested from its sleep of ages in the voiceless womb of Grave Creek mound, with its hieroglyphical representations, the proper interpretation of which, has as yet puzzled the profoundest antiquarian scholars of the world.

The period of their settlement here, if our conjecture be correct, was during the third or last quarter of the tenth century. Upon the flat surface of the highest part of Grave Creek mound, grew a large white oak. In 1828, it decayed, apparently dying exclusively from old age. When it fell, its trunk was carefully and evenly cut off, in order that the cortical layers might be accurately counted. These numbered about five hundred. Allowing a year for the growth of each layer, (the usual period fixed by botanists), this would designate the year 1328, for the commencement of the growth of this tree.*

This mound was abandoned then, one hundred and sixty four years previous to the discovery of this continent by Columbus. The Mexican Empire was then in the full tide of prosperity. Assuming our idea, as to the time when the Mound-Builders first occupied these valleys, to be correct, and presuming the white oak tree — whose age was so definitely ascertained, — to have been in its inception coëval, or very nearly so, with the abandonment by that race of their monuments, we have an intermediate period of some three hundred and sixty

* See Trans. Amer. Eth. Soc., Vol. I., p. 380.

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years, as the time, during which these remains were constructed, and these valleys occupied by the Mound-Builders. In the absence of positive history, we are thus compelled to invoke the aid of any and every circumstance, tending to throw light upon this hidden subject.

As has been already intimated, the growth upon the summit of these monuments in the Etowah Valley, was in every respect as large, as varied, and as luxuriant, as that of the forests by which they were surrounded. If any difference could be perceived, it would indicate a superior vigor and size, in favor of those trees which surmounted the tumuli, and flourished within the enclosure formed by the moat and the river. The writer did not enjoy the opportunity of examining the number of cortical layers possessed by the largest trees, as, at the time of his visit, not only the adjacent portions of the valley, but the tumuli, moat, and elevations, had been completely denuded of all vegetation, and were entirely changed from their original condition into luxuriant fields.

Within this period of three hundred and sixty years —allowing only a moderate ratio of increase,—we may well understand how numerous must have become the population of at first a small colony. Increasing and multiplying, every year extending their possessions, and erecting new monuments, they spread from valley to valley converting the alluvial bottoms, rank with the

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luxuriant growth of centuries, into flourishing fields, yielding their annual harvests; perpetuating in almost imperishable memorials, their devotion to the worship of the sun and moon, and raising immense tumuli, beneath which their generations sleep.

When, therefore, we consider the length of their sojourn in these regions — when we estimate the increase of numbers, which must have occurred in obedience to physical laws — when we remember the dense population which could have been readily supported by the agricultural products of these fertile regions — the peculiar form of government under which they lived, and the religious belief cherished by them, — we are prepared to understand, how they were able to accomplish the erection of monuments so vast; monuments proclaiming themselves in tones that cannot be misinterpreted, the combined results of the enormous labor, and united religious zeal of the many.

And now the sad inquiry comes home to every one: What has become of this teeming population? Their pleasant fields have either been overgrown by massive forest trees, or give generous token, that they are rejoicing in the teeming products of a superior agricultural civilization. Their solemn temples — tenantless now of worshippers — deserted of their Gods, — lie uncared for, and exposed to the harsh influences of the changing seasons. No lettered shaft tells the story of their coming, or of their going. No written history exists to remind

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us aught of them. There is that however, about their remains, which most distinctly informs us, that these Mound-Builders had enemies, against whom they contended, and against whom they were ever constructing fortifications and defences, of an extensive and efficient character. In the monuments which we have been particularly considering, what means this immense moat, excavated at the expense of so much labor, with its accompanying basins and breast-works, if its object was not, to render secure the enclosed area, within which were located the solemn temples of the Mound-Builders, and the sacred tumuli, wherein were deposited the mortal remains of their beloved dead? Lines of rampart, composed of earth, and sometimes of stone, enclosing areas, varying in extent from twenty to two hundred acres; — subterranean passages, leading from within the walls to the banks of a neighboring river, as if to provide for a supply of water in the event of a siege; — forts and watch-towers, varying in their form and dimensions, — all indicate most unmistakably the fact, that the occupancy of this land was not at all times peaceable and without dispute; but that on the contrary, the Mound-Builders were surrounded by those, who not only warred against them, but also threatened their very existence.

One of two suppositions then appears correct: either, that overwhelmed by the repeated and successful assaults of their enemies, they were at length overcome,

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and suffered at their hands total annihilation; or, that retreating before the advance of more powerful and warlike tribes of the north, they descended the streams which first conveyed their ancestors to these hospitable retreats, and again sought a home within the confines of more southern, and perhaps Mexican limits. If the latter opinion be the correct one, the probability is, that war, famine, and perhaps pestilence, must most sadly have thinned their retreating bands.

In the pursuit of his inquiry into the origin and history of the Red Race, Mr. Bradford writes: It may be useful to inquire, whether any of the Indian traditions tend to elucidate the question of the origin of the mounds and mural remains. The southern Indians state, that when their ancestors migrated from the west, they found these ruins deserted, and that the tribes which they dispossessed, had also observed them, upon their first occupation of the country. The Creeks, Cherokees, and Seminoles, are all united in attributing their erection to ancient and unknown inhabitants, without any definite tradition upon the subject.*

Indeed, their origin is an entire mystery to most of the present Indian tribes, — a circumstance by no means surprising, when we reflect that they were not acquainted with any accurate and permanent method of recording events. There is an old Delaware tradition, which, whatever may be its other claims to considera-

* See Bartram's Travels, pp. 365, 366.

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tion, merits attention, as being the only detailed narrative connected with the history of the Mound-Builders; and for its congruity with the traditions of the Iroquois. They related that the great race of the Lenni Lenape, many centuries ago, inhabited a country far to the west. Upon migrating eastwardly, they found the territory, east of the Mississippi, occupied by a numerous and civilized people, whom they denominated the Alligewi, and who lived in fortified towns. The Indians made an application to pass over the river, and through the country to the eastward; which request, though at first refused, was subsequently acceded to, under directions to make no settlements until they had passed the Alligewi boundaries. In accordance with this permission, that tribe made the attempt; but during the passage of the river was attacked and driven back. Upon this, a league was struck with the Iroquois, who had also emigrated from the west, and reached the river at a higher point; and the combined forces of the allied tribes assailed the Alligewi so fiercely, that after suffering severe losses and numerous defeats, to escape extermination, they finally fled down the shores of the Mississippi. The vast and beautiful territory thus abandoned to the conquerors, was divided between them; the Iroquois selecting the district upon the borders of the great lakes, and the Lenni Lenape, an extensive tract of land lying further to the south, and towards the Atlantic. By one of the Iroquois tribes (the Senecas), it is related, that

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at a very distant era, the country about the lakes was occupied by a powerful and populous nation, subsequently destroyed by their ancestors.

Several of the most beautiful, and the richest locations of the Six Nations, are stated by them to have been inhabited and cultivated before their arrival, by another people, whose burial places they distinguished from their own. The tradition they have received of these ancient inhabitants from their fathers states, that they formerly occupied a wide extent of territory, and were eventually extirpated by the Iroquois, after long and bloody wars. It is added in detail, that the last fortification was attacked by four of the tribes, who were repulsed; but the Mohawks having been called in, their combined power was irresistible; the town was taken, and all the besieged destroyed.*

The conformity of these traditions to the vestiges of civilization at the west, and to the Mexican narratives as contained in their paintings, entitles them to more weight than they would otherwise deserve. They proceed also from nations, which, from their numbers, their extensive diffusion over a wide region, and some features in their customs and character, appear to be among the

* Traditions of the Kaskaskia and Tuscarora Indians, make direct reference to ancient Indian wars and contentions. The ruins of Chechetticali, of Peos, of the platform mounds of Florida, and of the Mississippi Valley, as well as minor monumental reliquæ bearing evidences of a superior cultivation, and of arts, beyond those possessed by the North American Indians, assure us of the fact, that a foreign people trod at least a portion of this continent before the era of Columbus, or the planting of Virginia. See Schoolcraft's History, &c., — preface.

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first, and most ancient occupants, after the country was abandoned by its former inhabitants.

The Algonquin, Lenape, and Iroquois, seem to have been borne upon the first wave of that tide of migration from the west, which probably swept before it the Aztecs and Toltecs — and the former, were in precisely that position, where we should expect to find the foremost of the invading hordes, — at the east, and along the shores of the Atlantic. It is unnecessary to examine minutely the native traditions, to prove the direction of these migratory movements; for no fact is more clearly established, than their universal agreement, in tracing their origin to the west or south-west.

These facts, in connection with those which have been exhibited, as proving the common origin of all the Aborigines, favor the conclusion, that the original source of population is to be placed in Mexico and Central America; and the vestiges of civilization observed among the Natchez and other nations; the traditions of a period when many tribes were more cultivated and numerous than at present; the evidences which exist of important alterations in dress, customs and religion, and a declension in the arts, since the discovery, all tend to confirm this idea. The exceptions, if any, which exist, are chiefly confined to some western and northern tribes, to which an Asiatic origin by Behring's Straits, and the Alentian Islands, may with some plausibility be ascribed.*

* See Bradford's American Antiquities, p. 205, et seq.

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After a notice of the tribes, once resident in Mexico, and in the valley of the Mississippi, Mr. Schoolcraft observes. We learn that there were two great ethnological families of red men in America. Occupying different latitudes, separated by climatic barriers, and holding diverse positions in the scale of civilization, they inhabited coterminous countries, and were in character *sui generis*. They coincided in general features, character, habits, and modes of thought and action. The vocabularies of their languages differed; but the grammatical structure of them, and the philosophical principles upon which they were based, were remarkably coincident. Their arts and occupations were also dissimilar — one being an agricultural people, and the other, still retaining their normal type of hunters and foresters. The picture writing of the Aztecs, was an improvement on pictography.

There was nothing however, in which the broad line of separation was more clearly defined, than in their modes of government. The American class adhered to a primitive patriarchal or representative form, under the control of chiefs and councils; the other groaned under a fearfully despotic rule. While the one class of tribes had not emerged from the simple hunter state, and still roamed through the vast forests of America, filled with animals and birds of every plumage, the other class had made important progress in arts, agriculture, and architecture.

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The investigation of the antique remains of labor and art, scattered over the Indian Country west of the Alleghanies, which was instituted with a view of procuring some clue to the early history of the people formerly resident on the soil, developes a general correspondence between them, and those common among the Mexican tribes at the era of the occupation of the Mexican valley by the Chichimacos and Acolhuans, or Tescorans; which event Clarigero places in 1170. These barbarous tribes were not conquered, nor was Tauochtitlan, or Mexico founded, until 1324.

Could the veil of oblivion be lifted from the events which transpired in the Mississippi valley at that date, *i. e.* one hundred and ninety-five, or two hundred years before the advent of the Spaniards in Mexico, it would in all probability, be found to have been thickly inhabited by fierce, athletic and barbarous tribes, possessing all the elements of progress known to the Chichimacoans and their associates. These tribes were worshippers of of the sun, whom they propitiated by fires kindled on the apex of high hills; they erected sepulchral mounds, in which they interred the remains of their kings and rulers; and they incessantly maintained the same fierce strife with all their neighbors, which has marked the entire Indian race during three and a half centuries. If the Mississippi tribes defended a town, as the existing remains indicate, by ditches and pickets, in which there was a zig-zag gate, conforming to the Tlascalan fashion;

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precisely the same mode was prevalent among the barbarous tribes of Mexico, at the period when our southern stocks segregated from them.

So few traces of art, were observable among the Vesperic tribes along the shores of the Atlantic, from the capes of Florida to the St. Lawrence, that when the population of the colonies began to cross the Alleghanies, and descend into the rich agricultural valleys of the Ohio, and the Mississippi, surprise was expressed, to find concealed beneath a forest growth, the ruins of labor and arts, which appeared superior to any, known to have been practised by the ancestors of the existing tribes.

The accounts of the fertile soil, genial climate, and natural beauty of the Ohio valley, given about the year 1770, by hunters and adventurers, appeared, when recounted east of the mountains, like tales of some newly-found elysium, or land of promise. The desire for the acquisition of landed property was universal; America rang with the tale; and a collision of races was the consequent result. The earliest explorations of a reliable character, were those which date from the generic era of Washington's youthful visit in 1754. The first grant of land from the Indians, was that made to William Treat and his associates in 1768, and conveyed the tract situate between the Monongahela and Ohio rivers. Detached tracts were located, and settlements began to be made in 1770; which is the date of

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the founding of Red Stone, or Brownsville, west of the mountain slope at the foot of Laurel Hill. Some other locations were made in these valleys, between the years 1770 and 1772. At the latter period, explorers reached the noted flats, covered with Indian tumuli, the stream through which, hence received the name of Grave-Creek. Fort Harmer was erected in 1785, at the junction of the Muskingum River with the Ohio. Within a couple of years thereafter, Congress extended its jurisdiction north-west of Ohio, appointed a Governor, and provided a Judiciary; thus establishing a reliable protection for the settlements. On the 7th of May, 1788, Putnam, and his New England associates, landed at, and laid the foundation of Marietta. This may be assumed as the earliest period, at which attention was attracted to a species of Indian antiquarian remains, bearing evidence of art, superior to anything known among the existing Indian tribes.

Marietta was, in fact, one of the locations, where the antiquarian remains of prior occupancy existed, and still exist, in one of their most striking and enigmatical forms. They embraced the acute form of the ordinary Indian sepulchral mound, but were composed of a raised platform of earth, of the general form of a parallelopipedon, pierced with gates or spaces, clearly used as public entrances; and, if the outer lines of the raised work be supposed to have been surmounted with wooden pickets, and turrets for marksmen, the whole must have

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presented a palatial display. The height of the level floor of this fortified establishment, could not possibly have exceeded seven or eight feet, and though its solid cubical contents were considerable, it was not probably beyond the ability of the inhabitants of a populous Indian town to construct. Such a structure, raised by the Toltecs or Aztecs, or their predecessors, would not have excited remark, either on account of the amount of labor expended on it, or of the skill evinced in its construction: but being a deserted ruin, in the territories of tribes who possessed neither much art, nor industry, beyond the merest requirements of pure hunter tribes, they became a theme of conjecture, and excited wonder: the more so, as the discoverers had never seen the evidences of semi-civilization evinced by the Indian tribes of Mexico. As the country filled up with population, other remains of analogous kind were brought to light, most of which were in the form of small sepulchral mounds or barrows, ditches, or entrenchments once surmounted by pickets; but they excited little remark, except as bearing evidence of the ordinary appearance of an Indian town. The great tumulus at Grave Creek, had early attracted notice on account of its size. There was scarcely a tributary stream, from Pittsburg to the mouth of the Ohio, which did not yield some vestige of this kind: but there was no locality, in which the earth-works were so abundant and complicated, as in the Scioto valley. Those at Chillicothe, Circleville, and

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Paint Creek, evinced the existence of a once numerous ancient population. The entire area of the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, as well as the surrounding borders of Virginia and Kentucky, appeared to have been the theatre of dense Indian occupancy, partial cultivation, and of a peculiar character of internal commerce. There, the antiquarian found specimens of hammered native copper, steatites for amulets and pipes — the delicate marginella shell — mica obsidian, and horn-stone suitable for arrow-heads.

The art of making cooking-pots and vases from tempered clay, was understood and practised by all the tribes, from the mouth of the Mississippi, to the farthest extent north and east. The conch, and other heavy sea-shells were ingeniously carved into medals, beads, and wampum. An extensive trade was carried on in native copper, mined from the basin of Lake Superior. The fine red pipe-stone, from the dividing grounds between Missouri and Mississippi, has been found in the antique Indian graves around Oswego and Onondaga. Wrist-bands and chisels, of hammered native copper, were also found. The tips of the horns of quadrupeds, were used as awls; and a thin, tubular piece of siliceous clay slate, worked into the shape of a parrallelogram, and pierced with two orifices, was employed to separate the strands, in making cords or ropes. Thin pieces of bone, with an eye delicately drilled in them, served the purpose of bodkins. Mortars for crushing corn, were scooped out

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of solid pieces of rock. Fire was produced by the rapid rotation of a stick, with a string and bow. Discoidal stones, fabricated with great labor from pieces of hard granite, and porphyry, were used in games. Chisels, made of hard stone, were employed for removing the incinerated part of trunks of trees, in the process of felling them, and also, in converting them into canoes; tomahawks, in the shape of lunettes, having sharp points, and an orifice in which to insert a handle, supplied the place of iron blades. Smoking-pipes were formed of clay; but this cherished article was generally carved out of stone, with much skill and ingenuity. Long spear-points were made from chert and horn-stone. Fleshing instruments, used in the primary process of preparing skins, were made from porphyry and other hard stones. * * * *

The mounds erected by them, varied much in size. The largest spherical circumference of any of the mounds, is six hundred and sixty-six feet, and that of the smallest, twenty feet. The greatest height attained, is ninety feet; and the two principal mounds of Cahokia and Grave Creek, could not contain much less than three million square feet of earth. The most copious evidences of the density of the former population, and of their cultivation, were found in the Mississippi Valley, on the extensive and fertile alluvial plains in Illinois, opposite to the present city of St. Louis, thence extending to Kaskaskia, and the junction

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of the Ohio, and up the valley of the latter, into the territory of the ancient Andastes, Eries and Iroquois. The Scioto Valley must have contained a dense hunter and semi-agricultural population, previous to its occupancy by the Shawnees; and the Grave Creek flats appear to have been the central location of populous tribes. The most striking evidences of agricultural industry, were disclosed in the forests and prairies of Indiana and southern Michigan, during the settlement of the country, between the years 1827 and 1837.

These points of the rich domains of the west, may be conjectured to have supplied the means of subsistence for the aboriginal miners of Lake Superior. The small growth of the forest trees in the ancient mining excavations of that region, does not give evidence of an antiquity more remote than the twelfth century — if it even extends to that time. Mauls of stone, and the elements of fire and water, were the principal agents employed. The natural lodes and veins of native copper, for which that region is so remarkable, were followed horizontally. There is reason to believe, that the process of mining in the northern latitudes of the region of Lake Superior, was carried on periodically, by persons who derived their sustenance from, or who permanently resided in the genial plains south of the great lake. The exploration, for some cause, appears to have been suddenly abandoned, as if the miners were driven off by an inroad of barbarous hordes.

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From an examination of the ages of trees, as disclosed by the annual deposit of vegetable fibre, the termination of the ancient mound period, appears to have occurred in the twelfth, or early in the thirteenth century. There seems then, to have been a general disturbance among, and breaking up of the aboriginal stocks.

The late Dr. Locke, after counting the cortical rings of trees growing on the ancient work, found by him in Ohio in 1838, determined it to have existed six hundred years; which would place its abandonment in 1238. Mr. Tomlinson, the proprietor of the large tumulus at Grave Creek, in Virginia, states, that a large tree, of the species *quercus albus*, which stood on the flat surface of the apex of that mound, blew down in 1828, and in counting the cortical rings, they were ascertained to be five hundred; which denotes that the tree commenced its cortical deposits in 1328.

General George Rogers Clark, whose opportunities for making a personal inspection of the western vestiges of the mound period, were extensive, — expresses the opinion, that these remains do not exceed the age of five hundred years; which would place the date of their abandonment about the year 1380.

The tumuli or mounds, continues Mr. Schoolcraft, constituted no part of the military defence, though frequently located at or near the entrenched towers; but were devoted exclusively to ecclesiastical or sepulchral purposes, and were under the care and control of the

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priesthood. Some of the smaller mounds had been merely circular altars of earth, a few feet in height; but after serving this purpose a long time, they were heaped up with loose earth into the shape of cones, and left as memorials of the Indian.

The whole field of antiquarian research, as represented in the Mississippi Valley monuments, may be regarded as the local nucleus, and highest point of development of art and industry attained by the Red Race, after their segregation from the nomadic Toltec stocks. These monuments were widely scattered, but they assume the same mixed sepulchral, and civic character, which is apparent in those found along the Alleghany branch of the Ohio, in western New York, and in other parts of the Union. The largest mounds in the Union, and those which are truncated or terraced, bear the closest resemblance to the Mexican teocalli. They occupy the most southern portions of the Mississippi Valley and Florida. They become less in size as we progress north, and cease entirely after reaching the latitude of Lake Pepin, on the upper Mississippi, the headwaters of the Wisconsin, and the mining excavations of Lake Superior.*

We have thus presented the reader with a general view of the monuments of the Mississippi Valley, because they, and the principal remains of the Etowah

* See Schoolcraft's History, &c., part VI., p. 595, et seq.

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Valley which we have been considering, are both to be referred to the same period, and are the results of the industry of the same race. It is an interesting fact, that the large central tumulus, designated by the letter A, upon the accompanying plan, will compare favorably in extent and interest, with the most remarkable yet described in the valleys of the Mississippi and the Ohio.

It has not been our pleasure, as yet, to have examined the monuments of the Chattahoochee Valley, and those which lie scattered through the peninsula of Florida. We trust however, at no distant day, to enjoy an opportunity for so doing, and will hope in a future paper, to furnish the results of those observations.

For an extended and specific description of the monuments of the Mississippi, Ohio, Sicioto, and Paint Creek Valleys, the reader is referred to the works of Mr. Schoolcraft; to the primary volume of the American Antiquarian Society, published in 1820, under the title of *Archæologia Americana*, containing the observations of Mr. Atwater, with reference to the earth-works at Newark, Marietta, Circleville, Paint Creek, Portsmouth, in the little Miami Valley, at Grave Creek, and at other places in the Ohio Valley, and in the Western States; and also to the full and comprehensive memoir on this subject, under the caption of "Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," published in the transactions of the Smithsonian Institution; the information therein contained, having been derived from personal surveys, principally made by Mr. E. G. Squier, and Dr. Davis.

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A comparison of the civilization of the Mound-Builders, as disclosed by the varied remains which they have left behind them in the valleys of the Mississippi, and its tributaries—as well as in the regions to which our inquiries have been specifically directed—with the ancient civilization of many parts of Central America, Mexico and Peru, while it discloses not a few differences, will on the whole, we are inclined to believe, evince a community of purpose, object, and origin. At a later period, we hope to institute this contrast.

The condition of the arts among this people, may be briefly stated as follows:

I. To the cultivation of the soil, and to agricultural pursuits, they devoted much attention—in the selection of sites for their temples and villages, always choosing those rich alluvial bottoms, of almost exhaustless fertility, which would for centuries, generously reward the labor of the husbandman.

II. They understood the uses of clay—in the manufacture of various articles for service and ornament, combining this substance with others, which imparted a permanency and consistency, often remarkable. The pottery of this people, is far superior to that made by the Indians; differing from the latter in many essentials of form, color, and constituent elements. They appear also to have manufactured a sun dried, and sometimes fire-burnt brick, made of clay, which was employed in connection with round and flat stones, in the construction of paved ways, leading from the settlements to the

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neighboring stream or spring; and also in flooring circular depressed localities of varied dimensions, the specific uses of which at this remote period, can only be conjectured.

III. With the mechanical advantages of the wedge, and inclined plane, they were familiar.

IV. That the art of sculpture, and working in stone, was understood, at least to a considerable extent, is clearly proven by the numerous remains still extant. Some of their idols, pipes, sacrificial plates, &c., were fashioned with a degree of precision, polish, and beauty, which renders them quite remarkable.

V. Silver ornaments have been found in the mounds of the Etowah Valley. One of them, — a silver buckle, in the form of a heart — is before us as we write. It is fashioned of native silver, unalloyed, and although rather rude in its construction, answered well the purpose for which it was designed. A specific description of this interesting remain, will be postponed for the present.

We are credibly informed by eye witnesses, that gold-beads, and copper utensils, have also been exhumed in this valley.

VI. Isinglass (mica membranacea) appears to have been selected by them, as the material best suited to answer the purposes of a mirror. Although no perfect mirror has come under our observation, yet large fragments, carefully prepared, have been fonnd in and around these tumuli.

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VII. Of the probable theory of their government, we have already spoken; and have before alluded to the character of their religious belief and worship.

VIII. The nature and extent of their fortifications, all indicate a degree of civilization much superior to that, which belongs to the condition of such, as have not advanced beyond the hunter state.

IX. The angular construction of many of their tumuli, discloses a knowledge and recognition of the cardinal points; and as it sufficiently appears, that their principal devotions were paid to the sun, and perhaps to the moon, it may be, that their knowledge of astronomy extended also to the apparent motions of some of the other heavenly bodies. The principal angle of the tumulus is generally toward the east — and the approach, almost without exception, on the eastern side.*

X. No traces of alphabetic, or hieroglyphic writing, have as yet been discovered in this valley. Occasionally, upon the surface of a pipe is seen the countenance of a human being — a representation of a risen sun — a circle — an eye — the beak of an eagle — or

* It appears from certain traditions that the Ottawwaus offered sacrifices to the sun and moon. The changes of the moon afforded to the Indian Tribes a method of measuring time, Of the true cause of the increase and decrease of the moon, of eclipses, and of other phenomena which depend upon the motions of the heavenly bodies, they had no correct conceptions. The Aurora Borealis they call the dance of the dead. See Tanner's Narrative, p. 322, et seq.

Although we have no positive proofs to justify the supposition, the probability is, that the Mound-Builders possessed a knowledge of Astronomy superior to that enjoyed by the Indians. Occupying a higher position in the scale of civilization, we cannot doubt but that they had acquainted themselves with many facts, in reference to the revolutions of the heavenly bodies, which are the results of continued observation.

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some other delineation descriptive of some physical object. In tracing various devices upon their shell ornaments, they exhibited no little skill and ingenuity. All of these representations however, we are inclined to regard, as evidencing the taste and ingenuity of the artist, and not as indicating any positive attempt at pictographic or historic narration. We find no written records of the past. Upon the rock walls which fence in this valley, we look in vain for any monumental trace of their history. Among the stone fragments which here and there intermingle with the soil upon which they dwelt for centuries, we search in vain for a single tablet, whereon were engraven their laws. A people without letters, they lived and died; and the Muse of History scarce finds an epitaph for their tombs. Sad, but striking commentary, upon the evanescent condition of that society, whose members have never been trained to brave deeds and ennobling thoughts — whose intellectual powers have slumbered the sleep of centuries — who trusted to the failing voice of the aged warrior, to recount their warlike prowess, — and committed to the dying memory of the chieftain, the historical records of their past existence — who gave to the passing air, the spoken word — but carved not a line, to transmit to coming generations assurance of their existence. It is a remarkable, as well as a sad fact, that the American tribes came to this continent, without either alphabet, phonetic sign, or digit.

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Both above and below these remarkable remains upon the plantation of Col. Tumlin, in the valley of the Etowah, we find mounds, and other organic traces of the Mound-Builders, proving that they fully occupied this region.

Without pausing to describe them minutely, we may in passing allude to the fact, that in various localities in the bends, and near the banks of the river, still exist mounds, isolated, and in groups — generally circular, sometimes ovoidal, and again quadrangular or pentagonal in form — circular stone-paved ways — avenues leading from the vicinity of the tumuli to the river — elevated spaces, perfectly level at the top, which may have been used as places of amusement, or as sites for the erection of their abodes; while fragments of their pottery, and various utensils of their handiwork, are constantly disclosed by the plough-share, in the cultivation of this beautiful valley.

Just where the Etowah and Oostanaula meet and mingle their waters, forming the Coosa; upon the point of land, whose base is washed by the waves of these three rivers, formerly stood an interesting mound, circular in shape, some twelve or fifteen feet in height, and with a diameter at the base, of not less than fifty feet. The earth and clay which composed this tumulus, have almost all been removed; the same having been employed in levelling the streets of the village of Rome, and in the construction of a suitable landing place for a ferry boat.

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From this mound, the silver ornament, and gold beads, to which allusion has been already made, were taken. It was found to contain numerous skeletons — pots — vases — stone axes — arrow-heads — spear-heads — shell ornaments — pipes — copper beads — mortars — silver ornaments — circular stones, carefully rounded and polished — besides other relics of a less interesting character. Along the banks of the Etowah and the Oostanaula on this side, are numerous traces of inhumation. This spot appears to have been consecrated to the purposes of burial. The swollen tide of these rivers never washes the shore, without bringing to light new proofs of this fact. In the immediate neighborhood, were several other mounds of smaller dimensions, all of which seem to have been devoted to the purposes of sepulture. They are now nearly level with the plain. Upon the very spot, occupied by at least two of them, have been reared the dwellings and work-shops of another and a nobler race. The contents of these were all similar, and like those of the larger tumulus at the junction of the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers. They were composed of the blue clay, and alluvial soil of the valley, interspersed with stones, and muscle shells taken from the beds of the circumfluent streams.

Of the race by whom these mounds were erected, the Cherokees could give no information. When questioned as to their origin, by the whites who first located here, their reply was, that they possessed not even a tradition

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of the people who constructed them — referring them to the labor of a race, of which they knew nothing, and who had preceded them in the occupancy of this region.

Tradition designates this, as the spot rendered memorable by a battle, which DeSoto and his adventurous band are said here to have fought with the natives. Without considering the probability or improbability of this alleged historical fact, certain it is, that the remains now under consideration, are not to be referred to that period. They are much older — as is conclusively shown by the vegetation which covered them — and by the internal evidence of the mounds.

A casual examination of the base of the principal tumulus, and the removal of the earth along the face of the bluff to the depth of some five feet, disclosed a number of skeletons — ranges of vases and pots, varying in size and shape — soap-stone ornaments — fleshing knives — arrow and spear-heads, &c. Doubtless, the industrious antiquarian can here still find many remains, possessing no little interest, and which will richly reward the labor and care involved in the search for them.

Beautiful in all its features, is this necropolis of a departed race. Standing upon the almost obliterated traces of the larger mound, whose base is washed by the confluent waves of the Etowah and the Oostanaula, the eye, gladdened by the joyful meeting, watches the stranger wavelets, now friends, as in joyous companionship they leap along the current of the softly gliding

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Coosa — now sporting with the pendant branches of the trees on either hand — now rushing past the rapids, that here and there seem anxious to interrupt the harmony of the scene. The dark green foliage which crowns the left bank, grows darker still, as the shadow of the opposite hill — almost a mountain, — settles upon the river; while the trees on the other side, are joyously waving their beautiful branches in the soft sunlight, that rests upon the valley beyond. On the right, hill succeeds hill in gentle undulation. Behind, stretches the valley of the Etowah, beautiful in its foliage, attractive in its graceful windings, as it bends ever to guard within its accustomed channel, the stream that imparts its life and verdure. Upon the adjacent eminences, sits the village of Rome, replete with life and activity. The stately trees have fallen before the stroke of the woodsman. Broad bridges span the streams. The steamboat, freighted with the products of intelligent industry, stems their currents. Through the echoing valley of the Etowah, are heard the shrill whistle, and the rapid march of the locomotive. On every side are seen the traces of a new, a superior, and an advancing civilization.

How changed! since that time, when the Mound-Builder fixed here his home, and above the remains of his family and friends, heaped these memorials of his sorrows — these tributes to the memory of the daparted. The same heavens over-arch now, as they did centuries long ago. The voices of the streams, in subdued mur-

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murs, still greet the ear. Here and there a forest tree, rejoicing in its primeval proportions, still bespeaks the stately growth of the original groves, which crowned these hills and over-shadowed these fertile valleys. All else, how changed!

Ascending the valley of the Oostanaula, we are met by tumuli and remains, similar in all respects to those which we have noticed in the valley of the Etowah. We have not learned however, of the existence of any, so remarkable as those located upon the plantation of Col. Tumlin.

Some eight miles above Rome, in a bend of the Oostanaula River, known as Pope's Bend, is a mound, at present some five or six feet in height, and eighty feet in diameter at the base. It stands in the middle of a field, which is said to have been cleared and cultivated by the Indians. Circular in form, its central portion is considerably depressed. In consequence of the exposure of this tumulus to the immediate action of the wind and tempest, and the further fact of its having been for years cultivated, its present proportions do not realize its original size.

The walls of this mound, must at first, have been raised several feet above its central portion. In this respect, it seems quite unique. Now however, the outer rim has an elevation of not more than a foot and a half, or two feet. It is composed entirely of the sand and soil of the valley. Upon its surface, lay broken frag-

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ments of pottery — a stone axe — a pipe — a soap-stone ornament — broken clay utensils, and numerous fragments of human bones. This was, without doubt, a burial mound. Just across the river, and upon a neck of land formed by the confluence of Armurchee Creek and the Oostanaula, is another of these burial mounds. The surface of the ground for several acres here, is covered with pieces of pottery, and a great variety of spear and arrow-heads. From this mound were taken, a mortar of beautiful proportions — pestles — stone axes, &c. We are inclined to refer these last tumuli, to an Indian origin. Certain it is, that many of the remains found in and about them, are purely Indian in their character. It will be observed however, that the same locality sometimes, and in fact not unfrequently, indicates the existence of remains peculiar both to the Mound-Building, and to a later period.

The aboriginal remains of these valleys, may be divided into three classes.

I. Those which are to be referred to the Mound-Builders — an ancient race who possessed this region, and who have left behind them, remarkable monuments of their labor, and combined industry.

II. Such as are purely Indian in their character, and lastly,

III. Those, which although the work of the Indians, were suggested by, and are the result of their intercourse and contact with the Whites, or Europeans.

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Those which may be embraced under the first head, have been already sufficiently considered.

It is a well ascertained historic fact, that the Cherokees entertained for these valleys of the Etowah and Oostanaula, an especial love and attachment. Nor need we wonder for a moment at this. Upon the slopes of the swelling hills—in the dense forests which over-shadowed the luxuriant alluvial bottoms,—upon the banks of the swiftly moving streams—and by the generous fountains, sported the fairest and fattest game. The rivers, and their limpid tributaries, teemed with fish. The cultivated field of maze brought forth an hundred fold. The pure mountain air, the pathless forest, the broad valleys, the towering hills, all were invested with a degree of attraction, known only to the breast of the free, untamed Indian.

Their national name was derived from *cheera*—"fire"—which was their reputed lower heaven. Hence the spelling *Cheerake*, which is adopted by Adair, and other writers of his day.

The first quarter of the eighteenth century, they are reputed to have had sixty-four villages filled with women and children, and to have possessed not less than six thousand warriors. Their towns, says Adair, were always close to some river or creek, as there the land is commonly very level and fertile, on account of the frequent washes from the mountains, and the moisture it receives from the waters which run through their

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fields. Such a situation also enables them to perform the ablutions, connected with their religious worship.

Now however, these villages and settlements are scarcely remembered. The Cherokees themselves have passed far beyond the blue mountains, and but few and frail are the memories, which perpetuate the recollection of this interesting but unfortunate race. In vain do we seek amid tribes, who have not advanced in civilization beyond the hunter state, for those monuments of art, skill, and industry, which shall resist the disintegrating influences of Time, and tell to succeeding generations the history of the past. Occasional and unimportant are the remains, which combine within themselves, all that is left of the power, the intelligence, the labor, and the life-history of those who immediately preceded us in the occupancy of this soil. Not unfrequently, within the rude grave, is contained the only record that time has left to us of this people.

From the best authority it appears, that the Cherokees of this region did not, as a general rule, erect mounds over their dead. The usual custom was, to hide the body in some rocky fissure, covering it with bark, depositing with it the bow and arrow, pots, stone axe, and other articles, the property of the deceased, and then close securely the entrance.

Often the hut of the deceased was burnt, and with it many articles used by the late owner. Sometimes they interred beneath the floor of the cabin, subsequently

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setting fire to the walls and roof, thus obliterating all traces of the inhumation.*

Again, they buried by placing the body underneath a ledge of rocks, or upon the slope of a hill in some unfrequented spot, heaping above it a pile of stones. Subsequently, they adopted the plan of digging a grave some three feet or more in depth, into which the corpse was lowered. Above it was heaped a small tumulus, some six or eight feet in length, and two or three feet in height. Upon the range of hills running to the south of Rome, are several graves of this latter description. They lie north and south, and are generally located in the vicinity of a large tree.

On the right bank of the Etowah River, near Rome, at a point known as the "Old Bridge," a heavy ledge of rocks, projecting from the side of the hill, over-hung the river. It was necessary to remove this, in order to construct the track of the Rome rail-way. When forced from its position by the blast, the fissures in the ledge, were found filled with the skeletons of Indians. By many, they were supposed to have been the dead, killed in a battle fought but a short distance from this spot, and here secreted by those who survived.

Upon the hill opposite Rome, known as the "Cemetery Hill," many bodies have been discovered securely lodged in the inequalities of the hill-sides — carefully

* See also History of North America, p. 260.

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covered, and with their utensils of the chase, of war, and of domestic use, interred with them.

Scattered throughout these valleys, there are however, mounds of moderate dimensions, circular or ovoidal in form, which are doubtless, to be referred to an Indian origin. Judging from their internal evidence, we are inclined to regard them as the oldest organic remains of the Cherokees. Within them are found the skeletons of the dead, and various ornaments, cooking utensils, pipes, implements of war, and of the chase.

Elevated spaces, perfectly level at the top, are still to be seen. These were formerly used by the Cherokees for the purposes of sport, dancing, ball playing, and quoit rolling. In one locality, not far from the village of Rome, was pointed out a track, some quarter of a mile or more in extent, from which the loose stones and inequalities in the surface had been removed, which tradition designates as an Indian race-course.

The cultivation of the soil, and the springing foliage, are however, fast obliterating all traces of their play grounds.

Ball playing is said by Adair to have been their chief and most favorite game. To him we are indebted for the following description of this amusement. The ball was made of a piece of scraped deer skin, moistened, and stuffed hard with deer's hair, and strongly sewed with deer's sinews. The ball sticks were about two feet long, the lower end somewhat resembling the palm of a

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hand. They are worked with deer skin thongs. Between these they caught the ball, and were enabled to throw it a great distance, when not prevented by the opposite party, whose effort it was to intercept its passage. The goal is some five hundred yards in extent. At each end of it, they fix two long bending poles into the ground, three yards apart below, but standing a considerable way outward above. The party that succeeds in throwing the ball over these, counts one; but if it be thrown underneath, it is cast back, and played for as usual. The gamesters are equal in number on both sides; and at the beginning of every course of the ball, they throw it up high in the centre of the ground, and in a direct line between the two goals. When the crowd of players prevents the one who catches the ball from throwing it off with a long direction, he commonly sends it the right course, by an artful, sharp twirl. They are so exceedingly expert in this manly exercise, that between the goals, the ball is mostly flying the different ways, by the force of the playing sticks, without falling to the ground; for they are not allowed to catch it with their hands. In the heat and intense excitement of the game, the arms and legs of the players are sometimes broken. The celebration of this game, is preceded by fastings and night watches, by those who are about to engage in it.

They turn out to the ball-ground, continues Mr. Adair, in a long row, painted white, and whooping as

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if Plato's prisoners were all broke loose. The leader then begins a religious invocation, which is joined in by his companions. Each party strives to gain the twentieth ball, which they esteem a favorite divine gift.

These play grounds now lie deserted. The animated voices of the gamesters are hushed. Ball, bat, and the stalwart forms that contended for the victory, lie mouldering in silence and forgetfulness beneath a common sod; and a modern civilization has devoted to the purposes of agriculture, places once consecrated to sport.

Large clearings are still pointed out, which were cultivated by the Cherokees. Corn was the principal agricultural product. To the women chiefly, was committed the care of the fields.

All traces of their dwellings have of course, disappeared, with the exception of some of the more modern dwellings, — such as the ruins of the house formerly occupied by the Chief John Ross, beautifully situated upon a gentle elevation, upon the edge of the Coosa Valley, near the inception of that river, — and the former residence of Major Ridge, which still remains in good preservation upon the left bank of the Oostanaula River, some two miles from Rome. These however, are modern in their character, and belong not to the Indian, as he existed in his native, uncontaminated condition — but to the semi-civilized Indian, as modified in his tastes, habits, and character, by association with the White race.

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Of their pottery, very few specimens remain unbroken. If we may judge however, from the various fragments — some of them quite large, — and from the few relics of this description, in an almost perfect condition, which have come under our observation, we can readily award to the Cherokees, no little skill and ingenuity in the manufacture of their pots — pans — vases — bowls — platters — and various vessels of antiquated form. Some of them are well glazed within. Others, on the outside, bear the impression of marks or stamps, made when the material was in a soft condition. Others still, have ornamented rims, and are furnished with handles.

Red and blue clay appear to have been the principal materials used. In many instances, everything like gravel or sand has been carefully removed. In others, large gravel appears to have been intentionally intermixed with the clay. We have examined vases and pans, which seem to be composed of an admixture of blue clay, and crushed muscle shells.

The impressions upon the outside of the pottery, are said usually to have been made by a wooden paddle, upon which had been traced certain figures, or patterns. The newly formed, and still soft pot or vase, was gently struck, time and again, with this paddle, until its sides were completely covered with the desired impressions; the line grooved into the paddle, leaving of course a corresponding elevation upon the pottery, while the ele-

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vated work upon the former, caused a corresponding depression upon the latter. The vessel, thus impressed with such devices as fancy or ingenuity might suggest, in a still soft state, was then inverted over burning coals of hickory or oak — piled up so as very nearly to fill the inner space of the article, — and thus subjected to as great a degree of heat as could thereby be obtained; the bed of coals being at intervals replenished, and so arranged in a conical form, as to distribute the heat as equally as possible. So intense at times was this heat, that the entire vessel glowed; and almost a fusion of the particles on the inner side of the vessel occurred. When sufficiently burnt, it was allowed to cool gradually — retaining in its hardened condition, the impressions which had been made with the paddle upon its formerly soft and plastic surface. The countless fragments of this pottery, mingled with the leaves of the forest, and lying exposed in every field, assure us of the fact, that these regions were long and thickly peopled. It is also evident, that vast quantities of pottery, of varied form, must have been here manufactured. When we reflect upon the frail, perishable character of these utensils, we may very readily appreciate how often in daily use they must have been broken.

Rough beads, and rude ornaments, were also fashioned of like material.

Stone axes are still found — many of them remarkable for their beauty and symmetry. Of these there are three varieties.

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I. The ungrooved axe — cunieform.

II. The axe with single or double groove.

III. The double-edged axe, with a hole neatly drilled through the centre.

The manufacture of these implements, accomplished (in the absence of tools requisite for working in stone), only by protracted labor, must have been abandoned by the Indians at an early period of our acquaintance with them. The probability is, that almost all of the specimens which we now obtain, were made before their contact with the Whites; and consist principally, of such as had been accidentally lost in the forests by the Indians, casually forgotten by them in their frequent changes of abode, or of such, as exposed by the action of the seasons, have been removed from the once hidden places, where they had been interred with the bones of their former owners.

Says Adair: "The Indians formerly had stone axes, which in form commonly resembled a smith's chisel. Each weighed from one to two or three pounds." [We have now in our collection, a double grooved stone axe, of unusual proportions, weighing nearly ten pounds.] "They were made of a flinty kind of stone. I have seen several which chanced to escape being buried with their owners, and were carefully preserved by the old people as respectable remains of antiquity. They twisted two or three tough hickory slips, of about two feet long, round the notched head of the axe; and by means of this simple and obvious invention, they deadened the

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trees, by cutting through the bark, and burned them, when they either fell by decay, or became thoroughly dry."

In this manner, in process of time, convenient fields were cleared. Another use made of these stone axes was, with their aid, in preparing their canoes (which were hollowed out chiefly through the agency of fire), to peck off the charred portions from time to time, as the burning progressed, and thus afford new surface, and fresh fuel for the flame. When engaged in this occupation, they are said to have stood with their backs to the burning log, and looking over the shoulder — the axe being attached to the end of a pliant bough or vine, — to have swung it against the charred surface.

Still another use: the smaller axes, especially those with holes drilled through them, were employed as weapons of war. A most beautiful specimen of this description came under our personal observation. It was made of silex, well polished, a hole neatly drilled through the centre — one end being fashioned into a pipe — the other into a sharp edged axe. There is also the double-edged battle axe, or tomahawk.

Others there are, without drill or groove, nearly resembling pestles at the smaller end, which answered a double purpose of axe and pestle. From the remarkable degree of polish, and the peculiar shape of still another variety, the idea is suggested, that these were used in the preparation of their skins.

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Rude stone knives, and polishing stones, are also here found.

Not unfrequently are seen circular stones, probably employed in grinding clay, and other substances for paint. What may be denominated *hurling stones*, although rare, are picked up here and there, generally in the neighborhood of one of the former settlements of the Cherokees. The account which we have of the use of this article of sport, is briefly as follows:

Near the principal house in the settlement, the Indians prepared a square piece of ground, well cleaned. Fine sand is carefully scattered over the surface, so that the motion of anything rolled along the ground, may be impeded as little as possible. Only one or two on a side play at this ancient game. The stone used, is perfectly round — about two fingers broad at the edge, and two spans in circumference. The size of the stone varies however in thickness, from a half inch, to an inch or more, with diameters ranging from two to six inches. Each party playing, has a pole about eight feet long, smooth, and tapering at each end — the points flat. The players sit off abreast of each other, at six yards distance from the end of the play ground. One of them hurls the stone on its edge, in as direct a line as he can, a considerable distance toward the middle of the other end of the square. Running after the stone a few yards, each darts his pole — anointed with bear's greese, — with a proper force, as near as he can calculate, in pro-

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portion to the motion of the stone, in order that the end of the pole may lie near to the stone when it ceases its motion. When the end of the pole lies close by the stone, the thrower counts two of the game; and in proportion to the nearness of the pole to the mark, one is counted. In this manner the players will run incessantly at half speed the greater part of the day, under the violent heat of the sun, manifesting the most untiring interest in the game, and staking their ornaments, property of every description, and even their wearing apparel, upon its event.

These hurling stones are prepared with great labor and care, being rubbed smooth in every part. They are preserved from one generation to another, and are exempted from being buried with the dead. Considered as public property, each town or village possesses its own hurling stones.

Pipes, both of stone and of clay, are still found in these valleys; — those of the former material, not unfrequently in a perfect state of preservation, while those of the latter, are usually somewhat impaired by the action of the changing seasons. Mr. Adair says, that of all the Indians, the Cherokees excelled in the manufacture of beautiful stone pipes; and assigns as one reason for this, that their country, — mountainous in its character, — afforded an unusual variety of materials proper for such uses. Speaking of the manufacture of these pipes, he continues: "They easily form them with

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their tomahawks, and afterwards finish them in any desired form with their knives; — the pipes (*i. e.*, those made of clay, and some varieties of soap-stone,) being of a very soft quality, till they are smoked with, and used to the fire, when they become quite hard. They are often a full span long, and the bowls are about half as large again as those of our English pipes. The fore part of each, commonly runs out with a sharp peak two or three fingers broad, and a quarter of an inch thick. On both sides of the bowl lengthwise, they cut several pictures with a great deal of skill and labor; such as a buffalo and a panther; on the opposite sides of the bowl, a rabbit and a fox, and very often a man and a woman, *puris naturalibus*. Their sculpture cannot much be commended for its modesty. They work so slowly, that one of these artists is two months at a pipe with his knife, before he finishes it: indeed, as before observed, they are great enemies to profuse sweating, and are never in a hurry about a good thing. The stems are commonly made of soft wood, about two feet long, and an inch thick, cut into four squares, each scooped till they join very near the hollow of the stem; the beaus always hollow the squares, except a little at each corner, to hold them together, to which they fasten a parcel of bell buttons, different sorts of fine feathers, and several small battered pieces of copper kettles, round deer-skin thongs, and a red painted scalp; this is a boasting, valuable and superlative ornament. According to

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their standard, such a pipe constitutes the possessor a grand beau. They so accurately carve or paint hieroglyphic characters on the stem, that all the war-actions, and the tribe of the owner, with a great many circumstances of things are fully delineated."

When we remember in what esteem this article was held by the Cherokee — in ordinary times, his companion around the lodge-fire, and upon his march — never forgotten either at home, or abroad, — when we recollect the historic memories which cluster around the Pipe of Peace — and think of the solemnities attendant upon its use, when war was to be declared, when compacts were to be entered into, and, when the battle was over, as its graceful curl, denoting that peace had again spread her white wings over the land, ascended from the midst of the assembled braves, — a peculiar interest attaches to these relics of a past race. The many fragments of the ordinary red or blue clay pipe, and of the soap-stone pipe, attest their general use.

Of all the remains still extant, by far the most numerous are the spear and arrow heads. Of these there are sundry varieties, all modifications however, of one general idea. They lie scattered in every field — are disclosed by the careless foot of the pedestrian, as it brushes aside the fallen leaves of the forest — are washed from the road-sides by every passing shower, and are seen in nearly every grave. They vary in length, from the half of an inch, to ten or twelve inches;

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and in breadth, from the quarter of an inch to four inches; one huge specimen is before us, measuring fourteen inches in length, and four inches in breadth. Silex was a favorite material used in the construction of these implements of war and of the chase. They are in color red, yellow, white, rufus, black, blue, and parti-colored. Great stress appears often to have been laid upon the selection of a unique stone. In not a few localities, the black darts predominate. That they were here manufactured, is clearly proven by the countless chips, lying intermingled with broken spear and arrow heads, rejected in the process of construction.

It is an interesting fact, that this manufacture of darts and arrow points, was common to all the tribes of the American Indians, and that they all coincide in form and size. Intermingle, for example, a number of spear and arrow heads picked up in these valleys, with an equal number collected at random from the mounds, or in the fields of the coast regions of Georgia or South Carolina, and you will be unable to distinguish between them. It is probable that large quantities manufactured here, where materials for their construction abound, were carried to the coast, and there exchanged for commodities, which could not in this region be readily obtained. There is an interesting tradition still extant to this effect.

It will be remarked however, by any one at all conversant with the antiquities of Southern Georgia, that

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the Tribes who there inhabited, did, to a certain extent at least, manufacture their own spear and arrow heads. Of this, the physical proof is positive and abundant.

A description of the fleshing knives — soap-stone ornaments — beads — pestles — and other trivial remains which lie scattered upon the surface, is deemed useless, as they are really possessed of but little interest, and have been noticed by others.

We shall conclude this enumeration of the Indian remains, with the mere mention of a beautiful mortar, which was exhumed from a small earth mound upon the left bank of the Oostanaula River, some nine miles above the village of Rome. It is composed of a very compact, yellow stone, capable of receiving quite a degree of polish, and hard to be worked — possessing a diameter of nearly six inches — and a thickness at the edges, of two inches and three quarters. It has two cavities — each four inches in diameter, and one inch in depth — the central portion of the mortar lying between the convex, and concave hollowed surfaces — being only three quarters of an inch in thickness. In form, it is accurately circular, everything about it indicating great neatness of construction, and remarkable symmetry.

We have designated as a third class, those remains, which, although fashioned by the Indians, are yet the offsprings of wants, and the results of suggestions, evidently derived from their association with the White race.

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As an illustration of this, we may refer to a bullet-mould made of soap-stone, capable of answering well the purposes for which it was intended. It was found among other articles, in the grave of an Indian. This mould has thirteen chambers, varying in size, from that of an ounce-ball, to that of swan-shot.

We will not pause to enumerate the various remains, of clearly European origin, which are not unfrequently disclosed upon an examination of the later graves. These, — if antiquities they may be called, — belong to a more recent period; a period about which, the clouds of uncertainty and conjecture gather not.

So much for the remains of the valleys of the Etowah and the Oostanaula, and a glance at the interesting suggestions, which attend upon their examination. Few and short were the days given to their consideration; but the recollection of the pleasure experienced upon first sight of those august monuments, which tower above the level of the Etowah Valley — silent, yet not voiceless representatives of a past age, of a lost race, — still lives, and is only equalled by the vivid remembrances of the beautiful hills which environ, and the attractive streams which water this favored region.

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Remains found near the Tumuli,

AND WITHIN THE ENCLOSURE,

Formed by the Moat G G G, and the Etowah River.

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List of Remains.

I. PIPE — fashioned of a species of green stone almost equal to Egyptian granite, — three and a half inches in height; consisting of a human figure in a sitting posture, holding in extended arms, quite a classic urn, which constitutes the bowl. This urn-shaped bowl is two inches in diameter, with ornamented rim, and unique handles.

The countenance of the figure, is clearly not Indian in a single feature. The head is thrown back, and the uplifted eyes seem resting upon some superior, unseen, yet adorable divinity. The chiselled hair upon the front, is gathered upon the top in a fold; and thence flowing backwards, is confined behind in a knot. Ears prominent.

The careful observer of this interesting specimen of the handiwork of the Mound-Builders, cannot but admire the skill with which it has been fashioned. Unique in all its parts, there is that about this idol-pipe, which impresses you with the idea, that it was intended as a direct representation of a custom of offering incense to their Gods, which may, and probably did obtain with that ancient race, which centuries ago possessed these

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beautiful valleys. The upturned face, — the expression of reverential awe emphatically traced upon every lineament of the countenance — the extended arms, uplifting the sacred symbol of worship, — all indicate the attempt to perpetuate, in the form of this article of daily use, the recollection, of perchance, a well-established religious rite.

Not more surely does the water lily remind of fallen Persepolis, or the crisp acanthus, bespeak its Attic origin, than does this interesting specimen of the workmanship of the ancients, tell us at once of their skill, and of the religious rite of that people, by whom it was fashioned and used.

II. STONE PIPE, — four and one quarter inches in height, similar in design to the first, but ruder in its construction.

Human figure in sitting posture — upturned face — extended arms — in hands holding bowl of pipe. Idea conveyed, precisely the same as that suggested by the pipe first described.

III. CLAY PIPES, — some perfectly plain, others with rude impressions upon the outside, and scalloped rims. Probably of Indian origin. Bowl at right angles with the stem — some of baked, others of sun-dried clay.

IV. STONE IDOL. — This interesting relic, made of a coarse, dark sand-stone, is twelve inches in height. It consists of a human figure in a sitting posture, the knees drawn up, almost upon a level with the chin, the hands

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resting upon either knee. Retreating chin and forehead — full head of hair, gathered into a knot behind — face upturned — eyes angular. Not a single feature, not a single idea connected with this image, is Indian in its character. Everything about it—the place where it was exhumed — its internal evidence — all suggest the belief, that it must have been fashioned by the ancient Mound-Builders. That this idol is not Indian in its origin, appears evident from the following, among other considerations:

(*a*) The retreating forehead and chin.

(*b*) The full head of hair, gathered into a tuft or knot behind.

(*c*) The Indians of this region never were Idol-worshippers.

(*d*) The traditions of the Cherokees, while they do not even name the race by whom these remains were constructed, nevertheless distinctly disclaim the idea, that they were ever made by the Indians; and refer them to the possession of, and use by a people in ages long since past, who inhabited these beautiful valleys, and rich alluvial bottoms, building here their immense tumuli for the purposes of worship and defense, and who had deserted these regions, before ever the Cherokees chanced upon an occupancy of them.

It is an interesting fact, that the Cherokees never were Idol-worshippers. The same remark is applicable to nearly all the Tribes of North America. Recognizing

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the existence, and the omnipresence of an unseen yet omnipotent Deity, they did not deem it consistent with the magnitude and grandeur of that God, to attempt to confine him within rude temples, the work of their own hands; nor did it comport with their exalted ideas of his majestic being, and the proper homage to be rendered, that they should liken his image to that of man, beast, bird, or living creature, and bow before the senseless clay or stone. With them, the great, beneficent, supreme, holy spirit of Fire, although residing above the clouds, still communed with unpolluted men. They heard his tones of anger, in the crashing notes of the thunder-storm; listened to his tender words of love and mercy, as whispered by the soft airs of spring; implored his health-giving influences in behalf of the disease stricken and the infirm; from Him, directly invoked the refreshing showers of summer upon the thirsty fields of maize; by daily fastings, and night watches, endeavored to secure His interposition in their behalf, in the anticipated battle, and looked up to Him as the sole author of warmth, light, and of all animal and vegetable life.

James Adair, whose opportunities for observation were probably surpassed by none, writes as follows:* "They (*i. e.*, the Indians) do not pay the least perceivable adoration to any images, or to dead persons; neith-

* Adair's History of the American Indians, pp. 19 and 22.

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er to the celestial luminaries, nor evil spirits, nor any created being whatever. They are utter strangers to all the gestures practiced by the Pagans in their religious rites. They kiss no idols, nor if they were placed out of their reach, would they kiss their hands, in token of reverence, and a willing obedience."

Again: "They pay no religious worship to stocks, or stones, after the manner of the old eastern Pagans; neither do they worship any kind of images whatsoever."

Speaking of the Cherokees, William Bartram says:* "These Indians are by no means idolaters, unless their puffing the tobacco smoke towards the sun, and rejoicing at the appearance of the new moon, may be termed so. So far from idolatry are they, *that they have no images amongst them*, nor any religious rite or ceremony that I could perceive; but adore the Great Spirit, the giver and taker away of the breath of life, with the most profound and respectful homage. They believe in a future state, where the spirit exists, which they call the world of spirits, where they enjoy different degrees of tranquility or comfort, agreeably to their life spent here; a person who in his life has been an industrious hunter, provided well for his family, an intrepid and active warrior, just, upright, and has done all the good he could, will, they say, in the world of spirits, live in

* Bartram's Travels, pp. 495, 496.

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a warm, pleasant country, where are expansive, green, flowery savannas, and high forests, watered with rivers of pure waters, replenished with deer, and every species of game — a serene, unclouded and peaceful sky; in short — where there is fullness of pleasure, uninterrupted."

With such testimony, supported as it is by strong corroborating proofs, and the concurrent recorded observations of others, which might be adduced, were it necessary — from the well ascertained traditions of the Cherokees themselves* to the effect, that they were entirely ignorant of the race by which, and of the purposes for which these tumuli were raised, these relics, found within and around them, made — that they were all in the same condition in which they now appear, when their forefathers, arriving from the West, possessed themselves of the country — having first vanquished the nations of red men who then inhabited it, who themselves found these mounds and other remains when they first occupied this region — the former possessors of the soil, handing down the same tradition with respect to these monumental remains — from the internal evidence of the Idol itself, as indicated more particularly by its posture — the method in which the hair upon the head is disposed — by the retreating forehead and chin, and by every feature and expression of the

* See Travels of William Bartram, pp. 265, 266.

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countenance,—the conclusion becomes irresistible, that this remain is to be referred directly to the *Mound-Builders*, and should not be regarded in any respect as an Indian relic.

Although robbed of that sanctity and veneration, which the superstition and ignorance of the past had thrown around it, this rude image is still possessed of no ordinary interest and historic attraction. A small stone idol out-lives, not only the generation by whom it was fashioned and elevated to the dignity of a God, but survives the rise and fall of many nations; still preserving those characteristics of form and expression, which were at first traced by the hand of semi-civilized art, upon the shapeless stone; still confirming the past existence of a people, whose name and origin can only be conjectured, whose history is here perpetuated only by a few scattered organic remains, which have escaped the ravages of time, and lie uncrushed by the advancing tread of civilization.

The religious festivals celebrated in its honor, are no longer renewed. The sacred chant, years ago died out amid the solitudes of these forests. The worshippers themselves, nameless and forgotten, are seen no more; and this idol, once the object of so much regard, once invested with such god-like attributes, neglected by those in whose behalf its magic power and protection had been so often, and so humbly invoked, has lain for centuries, uncared for and alone, in the damp, dark

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shades of the woods, — exposed to the merciless influences of the storm — covered by the fallen leaves of Autumn — the stool of the toad — trod upon by the wild animal in its daily pasture, and exciting only a momentary curiosity in the breast of the savage hunter, as perchance, in after years, his unguarded footstep removed the decaying mould which gathered about it.

Awakened at length from its sleep of ages, by the industrious plough-share of the husbandman, it stands now amid a new race, in a new civilization, shorn it is true of its original attractions, but dear to the student of antiquity — a precious relic, — a connecting link between the present, and an almost unknown past — a striking commentary upon the fading memory of man, a sad proof of the lamentable ignorance, and superstition, which must have characterized the people, who invested its dull, cold, inanimate form, with the essence and the attributes of Deity.

V. Stone Plate. — This unusual remain is circular in form, with a diameter of eleven inches and a half; scalloped edges, two circular depressed rings, between scalloped edge and central portion of the plate. The central portion has been hollowed out to the depth of the eighth of one inch — diameter of this central hollowed portion eight inches — thus leaving a margin, or rim on the outside, of the uniform width of a little less than two inches. Thickness of plate, one inch and a quarter. The stone of which this plate is made, is of a

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sea-green color — close in its texture, and appears somewhat discolored by dark red spots. Weight — nearly seven pounds.

The use of this relic can only be conjectured. It appears improbable that it was ever employed as an article for domestic or culinary purposes. Its weight, the care bestowed upon its construction, and the length of time necessarily consumed in its manufacture, seemingly preclude the idea, that it was intended simply as an ordinary plate, from which the daily meal should be eaten. We incline to the belief, that this was a consecrated vessel, in which was exposed the food placed by the Mound-Builders before their idols.

This unique specimen, excites in the mind of the antiquary, no ordinary interest. No remain of this character has ever, that we are aware, been found or described. Perfect in all its parts, it is in its present condition almost wholly unchanged from that, in which it first came from the hand of its maker. The stains of centuries are upon it.

VI. Shell Ornament. — Five and a quarter inches in length; and four and a half inches in width; ovoidal in form; various designs chased on both the inner and outer side; numerous apertures cut — some circular, others elliptical. It was probably worn as an ornament, suspended from the neck. The impressions cut upon this shell, appear to indicate the fancy and taste of the artist, rather than any positive attempt at represen-

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tation of any particular object or thing. The carved lines may be hieroglyphical, but who at this day, will reveal their hidden meaning?

This specimen has lain for so many years subjected to the vicissitudes of climate, that it has been almost converted into a chalky condition. These shell ornaments, and domestic utensils formed of this material, have been exhumed and found in many portions of our country.

Upon the sea-coast, the muscle, oyster, and clam shells, were used as coverings for the sepulchral mounds. In some instances, as in the case of that large tumulus upon Stalling's Island, in the Savannah River, the bivalves and other shells of the stream, enter as a very important element into the construction of the mound.

Among the articles of antiquity found in the ancient works, which formerly existed where the city of Cincinnati now stands, Dr. Drake enumerates several large marine shells, belonging perhaps to the genus buccinum, cut in such a manner as to serve for domestic utensils.

Other shells have been exhumed, which are supposed by some to be similar to the sacred *chanka* of the Hindus. It is a well ascertained fact, that some tribes of the American Indians, used sea shells as drinking cups. These were not unfrequently buried with the dead, in order that they might, in connection with their other utensils, serve them in the land of spirits.

* See Bartram's Travels, pp. 450, 451.

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William Bartram * minutely describes the ceremony of imbibing the *black-drink* from conch shells — a custom which obtained among the Creeks.

James Adair * also alludes to a similar use of that shell, when the Indians, with set formalities, and established solemnities, drink an infusion of *cussena.*

Dr. Atwater mentions the fact, that nine murex shells, similar to those described by Sir William Jones in his "Asiatic Researches," and by Symmes in his "Embassy to Ava," have been found within twenty miles of Lexington, Kentucky, in an ancient work. Their component parts remain unchanged, and they were in an excellent state of preservation.

Of the thicker portions of the muscle shells, beads were fashioned; while from periwinkles and small conch shells, were formed ornaments for the wrists and ankles. These remains abound in the smaller tumuli, in the graves and burial places which exist in many localities in the valleys of the Etowah and the Oostanaula, and elsewhere. The present specimen however, appears to have been made from a shell much larger than any that now exists in this region. It was formed simply of the central portion, and is slightly convex.

We are enabled upon an examination of this relic, readily to conjecture, not only the size of the shell in its original condition, but also its origin; and the deduction

* See Adair's History, &c., p. 46.

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seems both reasonable and necessary, to ascribe to it a marine character.

Specimens of a similar nature have been recently exhumed, in an ancient mound located at the head of the Coosa River, and within the corporate limits of the village of Rome, in Floyd County. We are inclined to refer this relic to the handiwork, and to the era of the Mound-Builders.

VII. FRAGMENTS OF ISINGLASS (mica membranacea.) Of this material, the Mound-Builders constructed their looking glasses. Dr. Atwater states, that within his own knowledge, he has met with them in fifty places. Besides the large and very elegant one at Circleville, and the fragments at Cincinnati, he found more or less of these mirrors in all the mounds which have been opened in the valleys of the Ohio, Mississippi, &c. They were common among that people, and answered very well the purpose for which they were intended. These mirrors were very thick, as otherwise they would not have reflected the light.*

The Isinglass mirror — the most remarkable as yet discovered, — found at Circleville, in the Scioto Valley, twenty-six miles south of Columbus, is described as being about three feet in length — one foot and a half in breadth — and one inch and a half in thickness — and on it, a plate of iron which had become an oxyde.†

* See Archæologia Americana, Vol. I, p. 225.
† See Archæologia Americana, Vol. I, p. 173.

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The present specimens, although in the main devoid of regularity of form, nevertheless indicate an intentional and not an accidental origin. One in particular, was found upon the very summit of the largest tumulus.

VIII. STONE PESTLES.

IX. NUMEROUS FRAGMENTS OF POTTERY.

X. HEAD AND NECK OF BIRD, — two inches and a half in length — prominent eyes — with a comb upon the top of the head, not unlike that of a cock. This specimen of clay is of very fine texture — baked.

XI. VARIOUS LITTLE IMAGES — of sun-dried and baked clay — some representing the human figure, with distorted expression, and extravagant features; others in imitation of the heads of birds and wild animals.

When it is remembered that these remains were found simply upon the surface of the tumuli, and in the fields around their base, we may, with eager expectation, anticipate the revelations which shall be brought to light, when the Herculean task of exploring them even to their very centres, shall have been undertaken and successfully accomplished.

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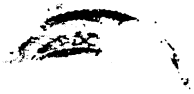

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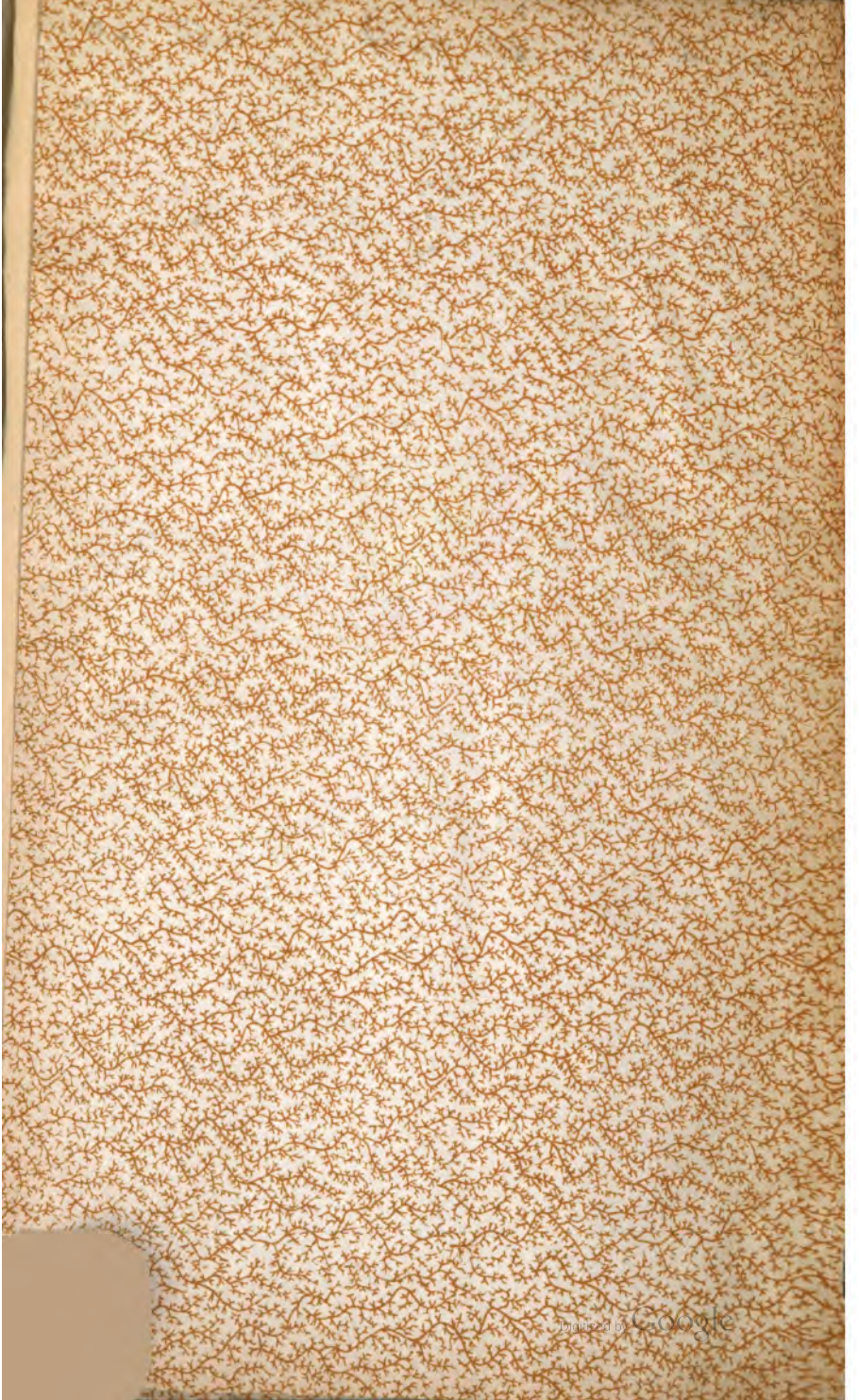
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